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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER.

THE FOLLOWING account has been received from Peshawar of the journey of the Turkish Envoy from that place towards Kabul. He arrived at Jamrad on the 2nd instant, where he was received in state by Muhammed Yusuf Khan Shaghasi, and Shah Murd Khan, attended by thirty followers. With these officers His Excellency passed a part of that night in festivity, and in recounting various anecdotes of the different countries through which he had travelled. On the next night, September 3, the Envoy was at Lohargi; where a number of very valuable horses, sent by the Amir for His Excellency's use, were in readiness for him. These horses had been sent down by the Amir from Kabul to Lohargi in three days, having been despatched as soon as the Amir heard that the Envoy had brought none with him. The Envoy arrived at Daka on the 4th, and was received there by General Ghulam Haidar Khan, who came out to meet him with forty sowars. On His Excellency's nearing the fort at that place, a regiment of infantry presented arms, and a salute of sixteen guns was fired. The Envoy was much pleased with the reception given him by Ghulam Haidar Khan. On the same day he started for Gardi; and was expected at Jalalabad on the 5th instant.

A LARGE number of the troops recently levied by Husain Ali Khan at Herat, having been ordered to march to Kabul, have deserted and returned to their homes.

A GREAT disturbance has been caused in Kurrram by the advent of Wazid Arsla Khan, deputed by the Amir to collect the poll-tax from the hill-tribes of Kurram. The people of Turi and Jagi and the neighbourhood resisted the demand by force of arms; and there is a report, though as yet unconfirmed, that the Wazir was killed in the affray.

IT IS reported from Kabul that a third Russian Envoy is expected shortly to arrive there, presumably to endeavour to neutralise the effect of the Turkish mission. The house in Kabul that formerly belonged to Muhammed Aslam Khan, but which is now State Property, has been prepared for the reception of the new Envoy.

THE INDIAN TEA GAZETTE of the 13th of September contains an article on the proposed amendment of Act VII (B.C.) of 1873, which we were informed does not correctly represent the intentions of Government in bringing forward this amendment. Our contemporary says:—"We understand the real scope of the proposed amendment to be this: that if mortality occurs amongst any special class of labourers, which mortality attains 7 per cent on the particular class, the whole of the labourers of that class must be removed; and the garden thus be partially closed." Now this we are told is altogether a mistake. The rate of mortality mentioned does, indeed, make an enquiry lawful and possible: but it does not make necessary, nor would the removal of the coolies necessarily follow even if an enquiry were deemed advisable. The necessity for *some* rule of the kind laid down in the amendment has been made fully clear; and there seems no reason to fear that vexatious enquiries or unnecessary interference with gardens, will be produced by the proposed rule. At any rate the apprehensions of the *Tea Gazette*, as quoted above, can find no justification in the wording of the rule.

A DEPUTATION waited upon Sir Richard Temple on the Railway gauge question. This deputation had been appointed at a public meeting on the subject. Sir Richard rebuked them for having indulged in strong language. He said: "In the first place he would venture to deprecate the somewhat severe tone of some of the remarks which were made at the meeting in reference to the opinions of various distinguished official gentlemen. There might be differences of opinions between official and non-official Englishmen, but those differences of opinion should, he thought, be expressed in the mildest possible language." But strong opinions sometimes require strong language.

AMERICAN PROGRESS. An American correspondent thus writes to a contemporary:

"While your Indian expenditure for famine is enormous, our national debt, which was four hundred millions of dollars at the close of the war, is reported to be reduced to half that amount, and bonds are being converted to those costing smaller rates of interest. Up to this date the total subscriptions to the four per cent. loan reached 76,182,500 dollars. Of this sum the Syndicate in London had subscribed 10,200,000 dollars.

While you are heartily desiring to make the most of any rains that may be given, our Secretary of War is considering the feasibility of extending the signal service, during harvest time, by firing cannons at various places to notify farmers of the approach of storms.

While you are importing food, we observe that, on Saturday, extraordinarily large sales in corn took place in this city, the sales aggregating on that day 200,000 bushels. The business was represented as mainly on export accounts, one prominent firm in the English trade having purchased about two-thirds of the whole amount. Prices closed stronger on the several auctions. The export dealings were represented as having been stimulated by the reported large deficiency in the aggregate shipments to the English market. If you can keep your rice from leaving Bombay for England, doubtless we can send all that she needs."

And America is so rapidly progressing without a land tax!

THE "Prince of Special Correspondents," Mr. Archibald Forbes, says the *Times of India*, has contrived to distance all competitors in conveying to the English public very graphic, and, it would appear, very accurate descriptions of two of the most interesting events of the Russo-Turkish war—the second Battle of Plevna and the destructive conflict in the Schipka Pass. We learn that his telegram to the *Daily News* giving the account of the battle of Plevna cost £500. Seeing that the description of the battle in the Schipka Pass was much fuller, the outlay must have been still greater. The energetic Special spares neither money nor himself in this campaign. He is constantly under fire while the battles rage, and he rides night and day after they are over to get to the nearest telegraph station, to send off, not meagre bulletins, but elaborate despatches, longer indeed than Cæsar's, but quite as full of interest. When Mr. Forbes was in India some three years ago he was offered the editorship of a local paper. The offer had attractions which nearly proved irresistible. He owned that he should like to spend a few years in India and become acquainted with the country. But he resisted the temptation. "If a war were to break out in Europe while I was in India," he said, "I should be completely shelved. Europe is after all the centre of everything. Nothing could compensate a man for missing a great opening there!" His forecast was right, and he has reaped the reward of his self-denial three years ago.

TUESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER.

THE NATIVE PUBLIC of Bombay it seems are not satisfied with the appointment of Mr. Dasabhoy Framji to the Legislative Council. *Native Opinion* says that "Mr. Dasabhoy Framji is too much of an official and the official element is already overwhelming in the Council and that the small Parsee community is already worthily represented by the Hon'ble Mr. Sorabji S. Bengali."

A CORRESPONDENT of the above paper says:

"The English Act governing the constitution of our Legislative Council provides that they shall consist of the members of the Executive Council, the Advocate General and additional members chosen by the Governor being in number not less than four and not more than eight. It is further provided that of the additional members nominated by the Governor, not less than half the number should be non-official persons, which term is explained to mean persons who at the date of their nomination shall not be in the civil and military service of the crown. In exercise of the powers given under this provision our Government has hitherto always so managed it that the non-official element should invariably be in the minority, and should never be able successfully to shape according to their own views the progress through the Council of the pet Bills of the executive members. The public accordingly regards, and in my opinion with some reason, the admission of non-official members into the Legislative Council as a mere farce intended to throw dust into its eyes. The people are likely to be confirmed in this opinion of theirs on seeing the place of a non-official member, and that a worthy representative of a large section of our community supplied by a Government servant in the person of Mr. Dosabhoy. They will view it as a studied weakening of the non-official element which has been a stumbling block in the way of an energetic Government that cannot brook opposition."

MESSRS. THOMSON and Mybee, indigo planters of Beheea in the district of Shahabad, have prepared a mill for crushing sugarcane. Its construction is said to be simple and the price fixed Rs. 80. We should like to receive a report on its working.

THE DEGREE of Bachelor of Arts of the New Zealand University has been conferred on a lady, Miss Edgar, at Auckland. The presentation of the degree was made by the Bishop of Auckland. Mr. Bruce, a member of the Senate of the University, stated on the occasion that the academical standard of that University was now the highest in the world for admission to a B. A. degree.

IN AN official notification Sir George Couper expresses his regret at the death of Rajah Hardeo Bakhsh, C. S. I., Talukdar of Kathiarie, in the Hurdui district. This native nobleman distinguished himself in the mutiny by saving the lives of some English gentlemen and ladies and supporting the English authority, for which good service he was rewarded with a jageer of Rs. 15,000 a year, a khillut of Rs. 20,000, and the title of Raja Bahadur.

THE INDIAN TRIBUNE is semi-officially assured that the rumour which was afloat to the effect that all colleges in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh would be abolished with the exception of the one at Allahabad is "altogether groundless."

WEDNESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER.

THE PETER'S PENCE presented to the Pope on the occasion of his episcopal jubilee amounted to the respectable sum of 16,476,281 francs. Of this sum 9,190,000 francs were in gold, the rest in bank notes. The money is to be applied as follows: 4,000,000 francs are to be paid into the permanent fund for the Apostolic Chair; 4,000,000 for a fund for the officials, ex-officials, and ex-officers who have remained faithful to the Pope; 4,000,000 for a fund to repair the various ecclesiastical monuments, churches, &c., in Rome, and for the furtherance of art and science. The rest, 4,476,281 francs, are to be divided amongst various hospitals, homes, asylums, &c.

A FORMER companion of Mehemet Ali relates an amusing anecdote of him during his schooldays. In the German lesson each pupil had to recite a poem, which was left to the pupil's own choice. Karl Detroit chose the well-known verses "God greet the, ancient man, thine ancient pipe in hand," in which an old soldier tells how he got his costly meerschaum during the siege of Belgrade, where he took it from a Turkish Pasha whom he had killed, and since then had carried it in his boot *a la Turca* in all his campaigns. And when he was wounded in the foot, the veteran continues, "I first felt for my trusty pipe before I felt my foot." At this passage, Karl Detroit, suiting the gesture to the words, stooped down and drew a short pipe out of his boot to the great hilarity of the whole class.

LEVERRIER, the celebrated French Astronomer, is seriously ill. He is now sixty-six years old. Originally he studied chemistry, but abandoned it for mathematics and astronomy. On June 14, 1846, he read a paper in the French Academy on certain deviations of the star Uranus, whence he proved the existence of an unknown planet, and even determined its shape, specific weight, and its position. Observations were then made at all the observatories, resulting in the discovery, by Gall, of the planet in question, Neptune, which is eighty-five times larger than the earth.

TO JUDGE from the statistics of lunatic asylums now publishing, it must be one of the most charming things in the world to be insane. Thus, in one asylum we find that 109 "amusements" were given last year, attended by 17,000 persons. These included nine balls, fifty dances, fifty-four croquet parties, three dramatic entertainments, five tea parties, six concerts, eleven lectures, fifteen picnics, and what are stated to be "four Megatherium Societies." It may be doubted if Paradise itself could boast of a Megatherium Society.

BABU PEARYCHAND MITTRA has contributed to the *Spiritualist* an article on the Psychology of the Bhuddists. We give below the introduction:

"Buddhism was a protest against Brahmanism. If the priestcraft had not been predominant, the system of caste, which was originally on the principle of the division of labour, had not grown into a social evil; and if the consumption of animal food and intoxicating drinks had not increased, it is doubtful whether Buddhism had been conceived, and matured as a creed. It took admirably, because the popular mind had been debased morally and socially and a reaction was called for. The first thought of those who were the primitive Buddhists was how to effect the annihilation of pain. Buddhist did not originally believe in God, nor in the devil; but in *Karma* (merit and demerit) giving birth to new existences. They admitted, however, that intelligence "subsisted as self

and in that view only, it was (*Atma*) self or soul." There are other proofs of its virtual recognition of the soul. Its leading doctrine was to rise above *Upadana i. e.*, attachment to sensuous object. Its conception of heaven was that it consisted of two conditions, viz., *Rupa Loka*, or beings of form, and *Arupa Loka*, beings of no form, or spiritual beings. In this heaven there is no material reward, but ecstasy of real existence. This is the heaven for those who arrive at *Nirvana*. In the Dhamapada the word immortality occurs. There is also mention of divine beings."

THE FOLLOWING passages are part of a Presidential address delivered at the *soiree* of the Vegetarian Society, held at Manchester a short time ago by Emeritus Professor F. W. Newman :—

"We are practical people, out and out. We speak that which we do *know* concerning stronger health, lighter anxiety, and heavier purses for the many. We have abundant experience that our food is sufficient to produce the highest muscular strength. We know that it conduces to sound digestion and good health ; that it gives us clear minds after a meal, and keeps us very little dependent on medical aid.

* * * * * *

"In my belief—nay, in my experience—an individual who can choose his own food will do best by making his change suddenly and bravely. Be sure that you cannot starve while you get oats, barley or wheat with the gluten in them; herewith, fruits, dry or baked, will secure you abundant nourishment, and you will soon settle down on new palatable dishes if only you have a willing cook. That vegetarian food is more digestible, more healthful, more conducive to lively cheerful activity of mind and body, there is an almost universal testimony among us ; and as for children, I suppose you know how many a sickly child of rich Scotch parents becomes strong when sent to leave on peasants' fare under a country nurse. If you wish your children to be sickly, feed them on flesh meat, and wine. This diet, vilely called *generous*, has, alas ! been in fashion with well-paid physicians ; but the tide is turning and many are learning their mistake. Come, join our company ; you will never repent of it. No longer give your sanction to killing lambs and larks, robbing us of the pleasure of tame birds. No longer promote the cruel treatment of huge cattle. Give up the practice on which cruel trade and cruel sport are founded, and become healthier, richer, and more tender-hearted."

THURSDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER.

OUR CHITTAGONG Correspondent writes to us as follows :

"Could not one suffice?" said that midnight-thinker Dr. Young. "Could not one suffice?" exclaims your Chittagong correspondent Mr. Nobody.

"His shafts flew thrice and thrice my peace was slain.

1stly.—A certain gentleman told Mr. Lowis that one So-and-So was the obnoxious Chittagong correspondent, and straightway a thunder was hurled at his head. 2ndly came the affair of the "suspected native officials,' with all its attendant official, demi-official, sub-official, super-official and extra-official proceedings, and 3rdly.—The now famous Belvedere speech. It was Jupiter himself raving at the impudence of, what ?—a veritable ant ! !

After all these mortal trials, no wonder if your poor "own" valued his peace, and hid himself in a comfortable nook until the storm had fairly blown over. Taught by bitter experience of the past and gloomy anticipations of the future, he however cannot be too careful in communicating to you, without meaning any disloyalty to "Her most Gracious Majesty, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Queen Defender of Faith, and Empress of India,' that Mr. Currie, (Curry !) the successor of Mr. Newberry (Newberry) is a *leetle* too hot. But mark I have said only a *leetle* —and hope there is no disloyalty in it. The other day, a pleader, a veritable beginner in the bar here, entered in utter ignorance, I suppose, Mr. Currie's Court by a back-door. The conduct was no doubt highly undignified, if not improper, but it was no cat stealing into a kitchen for Curry, and the wonder of wonders he was hauled up on the following day for contempt before the self-same Mr. Currie and fined Rs 2 without much ceremoney. The culprit pointed out that Mr. Currie had no jurisdiction in the case, that his conduct did not constitute an offence within the meaning of the law, but Mr. Currie, it is said, met all these arguments with a dignified assurance that he was acting *summarily* in the matter, and no doubt summarily it was. The pleader moved the Commissioner-Judge, who has referred the matter to the Hight Court, strongly animadverting upon the conduct and back-door entrance of the accused. The matter is *sub-judice* and the Baboo has gone to Calcutta to defend himself.

A CORRESPONDENT says :

You will no doubt be glad to learn, that your notice of Kukur Singh's case in the columns of the *Patriot* has not been in vain. Mr. Eden, I am informed by a gentleman whom I thoroughly believe, has called for the records of a number of cases of conviction for bad livelihood, in which the proceedings were conducted by Mr. Westmacott himself. I dare say something more than mere inspection of the records is meant. Dinagepore is exceptionally bad this year on the score of its unhealthiness, and I am compelled to say that it is Mr. Westmacott, who is primarily the cause of it. A little streamlet, the Ghagra, has its channel through almost the heart of the town. The bed used to get dry in summer with patches of water that would stagnate here and there. This was bad enough. Mr. Westmacott however took it into his head to divert the course of the water that would flow during the rains, by means of a channel cut to connect the Ghagra with the Gubura (or Gurbhesvara) so that no portion of waters might come into the town. The old bed of the Ghagra has now been filled up, while a bridge through which the water discharged itself into the Purnababha has been almost closed with a pipe of 3 small diameter only left, thus effectually damming up all the water between this mouth and the place where the Ghagra entered the town. The result is that a portion of the town has been this year converted into a pestilential marsh, where fever is being generated. The atmosphere is charged with a stench almost unbearable, and even the Europeans with all their habits of cleanliness &c. are as bad with the fever as the natives. The Europeans are fast sending away their families. Nobody can have the courage to tell Mr. W. that it is his action that is responsible to a great extent for this state of things. The committees here, as Mr. Eden's Resolution on the Rajshaye Divisional Commissioner's Administration Report published in the *Calcutta Gazette* has told you, are "nonentities." And even *if* any body did tell Mr. W. the result would be no better than what it has been in Bally with all your advocacy of the cause of the people there.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us from Kakinea :

"There has been a heavy fall of rain here during day and night since the last few days and in consequence thereto several villages are inundated. The river "Teista seems to be overflowed with water. Fever of a malignant type has made its appearance in the several inundated villages close to Kakineah and the ryots who are suffering from fever are getting medical aid *gratis* from the (Kakineah) Charitable Dispensary. The Native Doctor is busily engaged in prescribing medicines for them. Out and in-door patients are said to be overcrowing day by day in the Hospital. I am sorry to notice that owing to the lax working of the Estate P. W. D. the hospital building has not as yet been thoroughly repaired, although stringent orders are being issued by Coomar Mohima Runjun Roy Chowdhry to meet the same at once.

Some of the adjoining villages of Kakineah are visited with tigers during winter, but this year they have made their appearance in this rainy season and are making fearful havoc among domestic cattle. A boy servant in the employ of Coomar Mohima Runjun has begun to display a good sportmanship by killing them now and then with rifle being mounted upon an Elephant. Some of the enlightened ladies of the Kakineah Estate officials have opened their purse-strings for the relief of the sufferers from the Southern India Famine. This act of benevolence was first proposed by Sreemati Radha Kissori, wife of Govinda Mohun Rai Bidyabinud Head Officer of the Kakinea Estate and seconded by Coomar Mohima Runjun Rai Chowdry whose wife is also said to have contributed a liberal sum for the same. School-boys, Pundits, and Teachers are gladly subscribing to the Famine Relief Fund, being much moved by the address of Coomar Mohima Runjun delivered at the public meeting held here. Mofussil Tehsildars, Amlahs and others are following their generous example.

The sum of Rs. 1,000 placed in the hands of the District Magistrate Mr. Livesay, by Coomar Mohima Runjun, has been sent to Sir Richard Garth Calcutta, by the subscriber himself, with a view to have it forwarded to the Madras Famine Relief Fund, as it was returned to him by the Magistrate on a plea that he is not authorized by Government to send private subscriptions to Madras. Mr. Livesay cordially acknowledged the benevolence of the subscriber in a D. O. letter.

It is said that His Highness the young Maharaja of Cooch-Behar will be betrothed to the daughter of Gujoputty Rao a Member of the Legislative Council of Madras. The girl is said to be well-educated, enlightened and amiable.

The Kakiniah Dar Pundit Srissur Bidyalunkar has conferred the title of Bidyasagur on Babu Nil Cammul Lahiry, an inhabitant of Nuldanga in the district of Rangpur who is said to have acquired a general proficiency in the Sanskrit language. I am afraid the title of Bidyasagur may become contagious.

The locusts which passed Parvatipur a few days ago and proceeded up to Darjeeling have fearfully damaged the crops there.

Rungpur, Kakiniah, Dinagpur and other Mofussil villages are threatened with famine. The price of rice is rising day by day."

THE BEHAR HERALD states that Mr. Eyre, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Banka, Bhagulpur, has been removed from the Subordinate Executive Service. Our contemporary adds that rumour attaches some serious charges of bribery against him, and that he "has made himself scarce."

THE SAME PAPER says that the other day, a currency note was presented to the Bank for being cashed, and that a discount at the rate of ½ per cent. was demanded. The party then applied to the treasury officer on whose order the Bank gave in.

THE SAME contemporary states that several zemindars of the Mozaffarpur District have refused to renew their leases to the Indigo Planters. This is of course the shortest way of doing away with the Thiccadary System, the evils of which are now admitted on all hands.

FRIDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER.

IT APPEARS from the official report on the result of the allotment of the new loan that there were altogether 570 tenders, amounting to Rs. 3,32,12,300. to wit,

	Tenders	Amount Rs.
Natives ...	373	87,11,100
Europeans ...	137	2,45,01,200

Tenders on behalf of the Court of the Wards made by European officers are included in the former ; 461 tenders for Rs. 2,40,46,600, at rates ranging from Rs. 95-5-0 to Rs. 101 per cent. were accepted in full.

IT IS stated that a tree has been discovered in the forests near the town of Moyobamba, in Peru, called by the Indians "tamia caspi" or "rain-tree" which possesses remarkable properties. This wonderful vegetable production, we are told, absorbs the moisture of the atmosphere, which it concentrates, and subsequently pours forth from its leaves, and branches in a perfect shower, and in such quantity that in many cases, the surrounding soil is converted into a bog. It possesses this singular power to a great degree during the hot, dry weather when the rivers are at their lowest, and the water most scarce. Cannot this tree be grown in this country ?

A LONDON Correspondent says that the eldest son of the Prince of Wales is now destined for the Army. H. R. H. favours the idea of his son following the example set by his soldier uncle, the Duke of Connaught, and entering the service at the bottom of the ladder. It is accordingly expected that the young Prince on completing his education, will be appointed for duty to a regiment, continuing in a subordinate position until he has obtained a full insight into the working of the regimental system.

THERE seems to be so much excitement among the Mahomedans of Calcutta about war news that many of them, though poor, have banded themselves together and subscribed for telegrams and get them interpreted daily. Several groups have been formed in this manner.

WE LEARN that the Government of India has issued a circular to the heads of the various departments instructing them to effect as much reduction of expenditure as possible, and to shew that they have done so as early as convenient.

THE HEAVY rain at Chittagong has almost entirely destroyed the *amun* crops there and considerable distress consequently prevails ; some cases of starvation reported. Mr. Lowis, the Commissioner, and Mr. Currie, the District Magistrate, have held conference with a view to instituting some necessary measures of relief.

THE WEATHER was generally hot and dry in Bengal last week. Prospects continue to be generally favourable, although rain was much wanted in parts. Unfavourable reports come from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the crops have been either much injured or totally destroyed by water, and from Shahabad where "matters look grave everywhere, except where canal water is available," and paddy is being cut for fodder. In the Patna division, too, matters look serious, the rice crop having suffered greatly from drought. The Collector of Pooree reports that "unless the later rain comes in abundance, there will be great distress in some places." Cattle disease is very rife in that district.

SATURDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER.

WITH REFERENCE to the rumoured advance of money by Government from the Currency Department to the Bank of Bengal it is stated that the Paper Currency Act Section 16 authorises the investment in Government Securities of a sum not exceeding 60 million rupees. At the beginning of September the published returns of the Currency Department showed Rs. 5,69,32,466 so invested—leaving Rs. 30,67,534 to invest—within the legal limit. This sum approximately—that is thirty laks of it—was lent to the Bank upon its transferring Government securities for the amount to the Currency Department. In other words the Currency Department simply increased its investment up to the legal limit or thereabouts. Although the investment of these 30 lakhs is not intended to be permanent, it is for the present complete. Beyond the limit of 6 millions—which it will be seen, has now been reached approximately—the Currency Department cannot invest any more money, unless the law be first altered ; and it is most unlikely that any extension of the limit of investment will be proposed at present. The first thing to be looked to in the matter is the absolute safety of the notes which have been issued against the currency reserve, and until the circulation shall largely and permanently expand, it is not believed that any further investment should be consistent with the perfect security of the notes.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following letter from Mhow, dated the 26th instant :

"Though the prospects of the crops in Mulwa are not so bad as in other parts of the country still the situation is enough to sink the heart of a man of limited means, not to speak of the poorer classes, within him. Here in Mhow ordinary rice is now being sold at 7 seers and wheat 11 seers to the rupee, and if we do not get one or two heavy showers within a fortnight there is every probability of the rates of these and every thing else along with it rising still higher. All the native States which surround this place and upon which it greatly depends for the bulk of its supply have stopped exportation of grain from their territories, and it now remains to be seen what arrangement Government is going to make when the present stock of supply is exhausted. But what I fear most is the scarcity of drinking water. In a station like this where even in ordinary years when the rain fall is copious, almost all the wells are dried up in the summer season, the scarcity of water will no doubt be greatly felt.

The weather has now become so warm here that if it lasts long, I fear cholera, which has already made its appearance will make a great havock.

The Holkar State Railway Line is now nearly open for traffic. There is only one funnel out of four which is now left to be finished and which I believe, from the vigor and energy with which the work is being pushed on by the Railway Authorities, will be quite ready by the middle of December next.

WE GLEAN the following items from the *Journal of the National Indian Association*, London :

"At the recent Examination for the two Gilchrist Scholarships for natives of India, the first place was won by Babu Mati Lal Gupta, and the second by Babu Ashutosh Gputa. The former is a brother of Bihari Lal Gupta, of the Bengal Civil Service.

The Misses Sorsbjee have arrived in England to be trained as teachers by arrangement of the Bombay Government.

At the last general examination of students of the Inns of Court, held at Lincoln's Inn Hall, the following Indian gentlemen obtained certificates of having passed :—Mr. Rees Uddin Ahmed (Bengal), Mr. Akhoy Coomar Rudra (Calcutta) and Mr. Sadashira Nana Trilokekor (Bombay), all of the Middle Temple. Mr. H. S. R. G. Chuckerbutty passed a satisfactory examination in Roman Law."

THERE ARE some writers, who choose to bite men behind their backs, and the Calcutta correspondent of the *Pioneer* seems to be of that genus. He says that Mr. Justice Macpherson did not possess "an angelic temper," but he had not the candour to say so when the Judge was here. He gives the following anecdote as an example :

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"An amusing passage of arms took place, some time ago between Mr. Justice Macpherson (whose temper was not invariably angelic) and a learned counsel, hailing from the Emerald Isle, and remarkable for persistency and *sangfroid*. He was irritating the Judge a good deal, and at last got rather a sharp answer to some part of his argument. Nothing daunted, he laid down his brief, and posing in a theatrical attitude, said—"Strike, my Lord, but hear me!" I shall neither strike nor hear you, Mr.—was the immediate rejoinder, and Mr.—had to retire without the satisfaction he wanted.

We hope the writer was not the party concerned.

THE SAME WRITER thus falls foul of Moulvi Abdul Lutief:

"His appointment has not been a brilliant success. During his short tenure of the office, upon which he entered with a clear file, he succeeded in getting over one hundred cases in arrear. Mr. Dickens has, it is said, applied for assistance to clear off this heavy list. It would be a graceful tribute to the Moulvi's capacity for business to put him on as an extra Magistrate for the purpose, say, on half-pay. It seems that he never gave his decision in any but the very simplest cases on the day of trial; and his Court was not an orderly one if it be true that a witness so far forgot the respect due to the Bench as to fling his shoe at the Magistrate.

Of course there are reasons why the bar could not be expected to be pleased with the Moulavi's appointment, but the public are. As for the maniac, could a magistrate be responsible for his act?

THE INDIAN DAILY NEWS understands that Mr. A. B. Miller, the Official Assignee, will act as the *Times'* Calcutta correspondent during Mr. Macgregor's absence.

WE HAVE been favoured with a copy of the letter, which our well-known countryman Babu Pearychand Mittra, a devout spiritualist, has received from Mr. J. Davis, the distinguished American spiritualist:

"Dear Friend Mittra:—I have received your very kind letter with your photograph, for which we all return to you our most sincere thanks. Also we all thank you for your very just and eloquent biography of David Hare; and to-day we have your "Development of the Female mind in India—" which shows that in the Vedic Period woman was as truly exalted as she ever has been under the influence of Christianity.

It will advance the world to become acquainted with what has been taught by different races and in different ages *before* the Christian Era. I take the liberty to send you a little work of mine concerning women &c &c. It will go to you with this mail.

Please let me hear from you again, and also please send me anything you would like your friends to read.

With very fraternal regard for you and your family, I remain
Very truly
(Sd.) And. J. Davis.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London 22nd September—According to unofficial Turkish accounts, the attack by Mehemed Pacha was on the Russian positions beyond Banikalom, where the Russians are strongly entrenched in the village of Tchairkens and along the river. No Turkish official account of the battle has yet been received. General Ignatieff is in disgrace with the Czar, and has gone to Kier.

22nd.—It is reported that Mehemed Pacha has gained a complete victory after many hours' continuous fighting over 100,000. Russians at Biela. The Russian losses are stated to be great. The Montenegrins are masters of the Duga Pass. Marshal MacMahon's manifesto has caused uneasiness. The Republicans are indignant, and have issued a counter-manifesto.

24th.—A Russian official despatch states that the Turks on the 21st resumed the bombardment of Fort Nicholas in the Schipka Pass, and afterwards made repeated and unsuccessful attempts to carry it by assault. Fighting is continuous. On the 19th, at nightfall, Ismail Pacha attacked the positions occupied by Tergukasow, but was defeated with great loss. Reuter's Special Correspondent states that Tergukasow's positions have been almost turned by the Turkish force south of Igdyr. Supplies are failing the Russians, owing to failure of crops in the province of Erivan. A Turkish official despatch states that a Turkish division, acting as convoy to ammunition, has arrived tow hours' march from Plevna. Fighting took place at Biela on the 21st; result indecisive.

24th.—The examination of the detectives in connection with the Turf frauds has ended and all are committed for trial, bail has been accepted in the cases of Clarke and Froggett. A Russian official despatch states that the Russian loss in the Schipka Pass on the 17th was 31 officers and 1,000 men, the fighting is described as desperate.

25th.—A Russian official despatch, which has been confirmed by newspaper correspondents, states that on the 21st, Mehemed Pacha made repeated, but successful, attempts to carry the Russian positions at Tcherkowna on the Jantra. The Turkish infantry reached the enemy's entrenchments, but were defeated and compelled to fall back, on their supports failing to come up. The Russian loss was 20 officers and 100 men. The Turkish loss was heavier. Russian reconnoitring parties have met the Turks advancing to the relief of Osman Pacha, and have fallen back. A Turkish official despatch states that a Turkish Division conveying ammunition has entered Plevna.

25th.—Advices from Suleiman Pacha dated the 23rd state that Bombardment of the Russian positions in the Schipka Pass is continuous. General Todleben directs the siege of Pleva. The army of the Czarewitch has been reinforced by two divisions of the Russian Imperial Guard.

26th.—The Turkish troops have occupied a natural stronghold in Roumania opposite Silistria. The total Russian and Roumanian loss before Plevna has been 21,000 men.

27th.—The Mansion House Famine Fund amounts to £25[illegible],000. M. Gambetta's appeal comes on for hearing in November. The rainy season has commenced in Bulgaria, and is retarding military operations. It is reported that the Russian centre on the 25th attacked Plevna, and was defeated with very heavy loss. No official confirmation, however, has yet been received. The Russians attacked the Turkish positions South of Igdyr, and have been compelled to fall back with the loss of many killed. General Tergukasow's force has been reduced to twelve battalions, the rest having been despatched to reinforce the Grand Duke Michael.

27th.—Despatches from newspaper Correspondents and from *Daily News* state that at the Russian Head Quarters greatest discontent, and discouragement prevail, officers regard success as hopeless unless a change is made in the personnel of staff whose incapacity has been manifest in each phase of Campaign. The siege of Plevna is at a standstill for want of Shovels.

28th.—The President of the Austrian Council of Ministers replying to the question in the Chamber of Deputies said that the policy of Government would continue one of strict neutrality. Mehemed Pacha is falling back upon the river Kara Lom owing to the massing of Russian troops on the Lom. The weather is bad rendering supplies difficult, the roads being impassable to heavy vehicles. Roumanian troops made an unsuccessful attempt to carry the second Grivitza redoubt of the 25th. Suleiman Pacha, in pursuance of orders from Seraskirat will co-operate with Mehamed Pacha in attacking Baila and send force to threaten Eleva which is garrisoned by 2,000 Russians, the Turks attacked and completely defeated the enemy and returned to camp.

29.—On the 22nd instant a severely contested engagement took place between forces under Ismail Pacha and General Tergukassow which lasted nine hours. The result was indecisive. Both sides maintaining their positions. The Russian loss was 300. The Turkish 45. The President of Hungarian Council Ministers, in replying to a question of Chamber Deputies, said that the triple alliance, between the Czar and the Emperors of Austria and Germany, involved no obligations in Eastern question. Chevket Pacha is constructing entrenchments before the Orchaine. Russia has asked the permission to transport timber across the Danube for building hospital. The Porte desire to ascertain, if it will not be used for sheltering soldiers, before granting the request.

29th.—There are signs of an early and severe winter in Turkey; two inches of snow have already fallen in the Schipka Pass. It is believed that the campaign in Bulgaria is virtually ended. During the winter, the Russians intend remaining strongly entrenched in actual positions, and will possibly abandon Tirnova.

THE LAST number of the *Indian Charivari* takes Mr. Justice Ainslie for the subject of the Album portrait. Buck's biographical account is not very complimentary. The cartoon is effective. Our comic brother, we are glad to note, does not vent his bile against the Bengali in this number.

THE DEATHS in Calcutta for the week ending 22nd September were 273, of which 100 were from fever, 32 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 25 from cholera, 27 from tetanus, and the rest from other causes. The deaths in the Suburbs during the month of August last were 1006 in all, which compared with the return of July shewed 287 in excess. The deaths were from cholera 86, fever 448, bowel complaints 152, and the rest from other causes.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications:—1, Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency for 1876-77. 2 vols. With a separate Introduction. 2, Report on the Police Administration of the N. W. Provinces for 1876. 3, Journal of the National Indian Association for July, August and September 1877. 4, Annual Report of the Bethune School for 1876. 5, Descriptive Catalogue of Stationery, Fancy Goods, for sale at the Calcutta Advertiser Press. 6, Bhoogul Britantasara or Elements of Geography in Bengali. By Norendra Nath Ker. Second edition. 7, Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co.'s Literary Circular for September 1877. 8, Report on the Forest Administration of the Central Provinces for 1876-77.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1877.

THE VICEROY'S FIRST VICTORY.

THE Viceroy has won his first victory. *Veni, Vidi, Vici.* The differences between the Government of India and the Madras Government had grown into a public scandal, but the Viceroy's visit and conferences with the Governor of Madras have restored concord and harmony. This we consider is the Viceroy's first victory. His Lordship has returned to Simla after organizing the Famine Campaign in Southern India. His Lordship made a wise resolve, when he tore away from his surroundings at Simla, and took the command in his own hands. His humane instincts have put the matters straight. Although some of the measures his Lordship have adopted have been revolutionary, we must at the same time admit that desperate diseases require desperate remedies. It is yet too early to anticipate success, but things have been put in proper train, and although it may not be in the power of Government to avert death altogether, it may greatly alleviate suffering. One thing we cannot however understand. It appears from newspaper reports that relief kitchens have been summarily closed and that the paupers fed there have been moved to relief works. But many of these are reported to have gone so far in health that they cannot stand labor and that they consequently sink. Surely such a wholesale closure of relief kitchens was not contemplated by Lord Lytton. His Lordship thus wrote in his Minute of August last:

"At the beginning of a famine there are some, and before the end of a famine there will be many, people who, from physical infirmity, or from social custom, or from some other reason, are unable to earn wages on relief works, and who have no means of buying food. For persons of this class the State must, when the sources of private benevolence are dry, provide gratuitous relief, if it undertakes to provide for them at all; an undertaking which, if it assumes wide dimensions, must impose upon the State operations of peculiar difficulty and delicacy. For it is the inevitable tendency of all gratuitous relief afforded by the State, if it be not supervised and restricted with the most scrupulous exactitude, to intrude injuriously on the field of relief labour, and thus demoralize large masses of the population. Such relief may be given in the shape of grants-in-aid of private charity; in the shape of cooked or uncooked food, distributed at relief centres, at camps, or poor-houses, where the recipients of relief are housed and cared for; or (if complete means of supervision exist) in the shape of money alms distributed to paupers at their homes through village agencies. One or other, often more than one, of these forms of gratuitous relief must, sooner or later, be dispensed in every famine tract, at large centres of population relief camps are useful; for the inmates are prevented from wandering about the streets, and starving for want of miscellaneous alms. On great roads and lines of traffic out-door relief centres are more suitable. Where a good indigenous village agency exist, it is advisable to register and relieve, at an early stage of a famine, the helpless paupers in their villages, so that they may be prevented from starving at home, or from wandering forth in quest of charity. But in whatever shape gratuitous relief be given, the ordinary district organization must be greatly strengthened to secure its due and honest administration. No other form of famine relief is more open to abuse and malversation. Every rupee spent in providing effective, trustworthy supervision is saved over and over again, not only in preventing wasteful and unnecessary expenditure, but in securing that the relief given reaches the classes and persons for whom it is intended, without being turned aside into the pockets of people who can do without State aid."

This was both fair and humane, but practically if what we hear be true the relief kitchens have been summarily closed. This inconsistency is not intelligible. Then the best mode of relief for sufferers of the genteel class, which would not be demoralizing, is house-to-house visitation, but this it seems is very sparingly had recourse to.

Then there is a hiatus in the scheme of relief, to which we would solicit the attention of Lord Lytton. His Lordship says that the Duke of Buckingham "has wisely decided that none who can work shall be relieved except on public works." But His Grace takes no note of those sufferers, who are agriculturists, and who if aided by the State with advances may return to their fields and cultivate. The scheme of relief sanctioned for Madas is as follows:

I. *Grain supply.*—That, as was decided by the Government of India at Delhi in January last, this Government should abstain from importing grain on its own account and from any measure which might interfere with the activity of private trade. As the proposal to supply seed-grain to ryots might be held to traverse this general rule, it was noted at the conference that the Government of Madras would be free to buy a supply of such seed-grain if His Grace found such an arrangement better than advancing to ryots money for the purchase of seed.

II. *Public Works.*—A large scheme of useful public works under departmental supervision should be the backbone of the relief system; all other forms of relief being subsidiary to the main scheme, and all relief works of any magnitude being directed and controlled by agency belonging to the Public Works Department.

Large works under professional agency should not be limited (as has under standing orders been hitherto the case) to works which are deemed directly remunerative, nor even to works which may probably be finished during the continuance of the famine. The Governments of India and Madras will be prepared to accept a proportion of unremunerative and unfinished public works at the end of the famine.

III. *Gratuitous Relief.*—All gratuitous relief should be, as far as possible, temporary, and subsidiary to the main object of getting the distressed people on to the works, or back to their homes and ordinary occupations. It will be necessary to maintain relief camps in order to receive and support the starving, the helpless wanderers and infirm persons, with a view of getting them into condition to labour. But the ultimate object of these relief-camps, as receiving places only, for people hereafter to be drafted to works, or to their homes, should ever be kept in view.

Secondly.—Village relief, other than casual relief to famine-stricken travellers, should be confined to resident villagers who are houseridden, or otherwise unfitted for, or incapable of, labour.

It will be seen from the above that the scheme of relief adopted does not at all meet the case of agricultural laborers. They have apparently sold all that they had to keep their body and soul together. Their cattle gone; their implements sold off; they have no money to purchase seed-grain or to support themselves during the season of cultivation. It is therefore of the utmost importance to help them with advances. As Lord Northbrook remarked the other day in the House of Lords, "the House would recollect that those who had to deal with an Indian famine were brought into contact with an enormous number of small cultivators, especially in Madras, where in one district there were fully 50,000 proprietors of less than 10 acres; and in another no fewer than 80,000. It was very important to help these men as much as possible." If advances be given in this way, the money will not be thrown away. In the first place it is of paramount importance that cultivation should be carried on, and if the ryots have not means, they ought to be provided with them. Then the advances which may be thus given will be recoverable. They should be given on the mortgage of their lands. The process of recovery would we think be easier in Madras than it was in Behar. In 1874 the Government made large advances to agriculturists in Behar on the mortgage of their tenures, and although the holders had no proprietary right in them, still they were true to their bonds, and have we believe returned every pice they received. In Madras the ryots are proprietors of the land, and the hold upon them will be therefore stronger. It is only necessary to register the bonds for identification of persons receiving advances. This precaution was omitted at first in Bengal, and the omission led to some inconvenience. We observe that the Central Committee at Madras are giving assistance to ryots for the purchase of cattle and implements, but this relief ought to be undertaken by Government. It does not properly speaking fall within the scope of charitable relief.

ENGLAND ON THE INDIAN FAMINE.

In our experience of England's relations with India we have seen that she acts by fits and starts. Within the last twenty years we have observed that it was only some great calamities, which could rouse the English nation to a proper sense of its responsibilities to the millions in the East, whose destinies have been committed by Providence to its care. The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 roused England as if from a torpor of ages. True that since then England was occasionally moved to take an interest in Indian affairs, but it was not a widespread or sustained interest. In 1874 came the Behar Famine, and we had a signal proof of England's gererous instincts. And now again she has nobly come forward to India's help. It is a peculiar characteristic of the English nation, that when its sympathy is once aroused, it does not rest satisfied until it sees the object of its sympathy fairly out of danger or distress. As a moral spectacle only the present move in England to assist the suffering millions in Southern India is grand and ennobling. But as an evidence of England's recognition of her responsibilities to her Indian dependency it is doubly reassuring. Meeting after meeting is held in the chief towns of the United Kingdom to raise subscriptions and to afford help to the poor sufferers. There is a spirit of earnestness about it, which we cannot too highly admire, and which we strongly commend to our countrymen. It ought to stimulate them in this mission of benevolence. At Birmingham we read resolutions were passed that not only should subscriptions be raised but that it should be urged upon the Imperial Government that "the exigencies of the case can only be efficiently met by the action of the Imperial Government, and the meeting therefore calls upon Her Majesty's Ministers to take immediate measures for the relief of the sufferers, and for mitigating the horrors of this great calamity." Sir Henry Cole, in supporting the last-named resolution, advised the people of Birmingham to ask several questions of the Government—1, Did this country acknowledge sufficiently that it was responsible for the Government of India? 2, Had everything been done by the present Government and past Governments to avert or lessen the effects of this famine? 3, Had foresight been exercised to provide against the consequences of the failure of rainfall? 4, Was the British Government as wise as the ancient Indian Native Governments in averting such catastrophes? and, finally, what were to be the remedies for the future? At Sheffield it was resolved that "notwithstanding all the private subscriptions that might be raised, Government ought to come forward in a very liberal manner as they did at the time of the Irish famine some years ago, when about eight millions were subscribed for the purposes of relief." At the Mansion House Meeting "while appealing for subscriptions to the relief fund, most of the speakers were agreed that the private efforts being made throughout the country would be utterly unable to cope with the dreadful suffering and distress in Southern India, and that the Government ought to vote money out of the national exchequer for the relief of Her Majesty's subjects in the afflicted districts." The following Resolutions were passed at the meeting at Edinburgh. "That the citizens of Edinburgh deeply deplore the prevalence of famine throughout Southern and portions of Western India, more widespread and intense than any of the unhappily frequent calamities of a similar kind which have afflicted the people in the whole period of British administration—a famine which there is now great reason to fear will prevail during the second year, when the resources of the mass of the people must be quite exhausted and the strain on the Local Government be more severe than on any previous occasion." "That this meeting expresses the heartfelt sympathy of the citizens with millions of our fellow subjects that are suffering with marvellous patience and resignation under this visitation of God." In a recent speech at the Art Gallery Lord Derby thus referred to the Famine in India:

The gentleman who proposed my health in such flattering terms very naturally referred to the state of public affairs. You will not expect me to say much about them, and especially not as to what is passing abroad. (Hear, hear.) It is neither my wish nor my duty here to enter upon any controverted questions, addressing, as I do, an audience composed of all political parties (hear, hear); and what is quite as much to the purpose in the position in which matters actually are—war having taken the place of diplomacy—you are all as well able to judge as I am of what is likely to happen. We have done what we could to avert this unfortunate quarrel. We failed in that; and, looking back on the past, I do not think that success was ever possible. (Hear, hear.) There was on both sides a conviction that war must come sooner or later, and where that feeling exists mediation is a very hopeless business. (Hear, hear.) I don't think that the present moment is favourable for any interposition by third parties in the interests of peace. It is not the business of England to offer good offices without some reasonable prospect of their being accepted. (Cheers.) But the time may come; it may not even be far distant, and whenever in our judgment that time shall have arrived, be sure that we will not lose the opportunity. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) If I were to describe in one sentence the attitude and feeling of the Government, I would say that we shall do what we can to pull our neighbours out of the ditch, but that, in doing so, we shall be very careful that they don't pull us in. (Laughter and cheers.) I don't think our domestic affairs are likely to trouble us much for the present. There does not seem to be any very burning question; and for the last two years we have all of us been more occupied in watching our neighbours that in looking after our own concerns. That is natural enough. There are not many people who can go on doing their usual business quietly in their offices when their next neighbour's house is on fire. (Hear, hear.) Just now I should very much pity the man, whoever he might be, who undertook to get up a real live agitation on any domestic subject. How long that state of things may last is another question, but that it exists now is a matter about which there can be no mistake. But, gentlemen, we have a difficulty to deal with—one graver and more momentous than, perhaps, the public has yet realized, one in respect to which all parties and all classes will be of the same mind as to what they wish to do, but yet notwithstanding our unanimity, we shall not find it easy to be done. (Hear, hear.) We have to deal with the calamity of famine on a scale to which European experience supplies no parallel. We have to act for a population little accustomed to act for themselves; and of a large part of whom it would be no exaggeration to say, that death is felt by them as a less evil than the doing out of their accustomed ways of life. There is no difficulty in supplying food. That is a mere matter of cost. The trouble is to bring the people to it or it to them. Rely upon it, that the utmost care and the constant thought of the Government shall be given to this matter. It is even graver, in my mind, than what is called the Eastern Question, and it is all the more so because, unhappily, we have no security that this calamity which is pending now will be an isolated occurence. (Hear, hear.) We may have in India to study practically, and on the vastest scale, the question of the increase of population compared with means of subsistence, which has dropped out of our minds as affecting this country. We have in England outlet of all sorts—emigration, trade, manufactures of every kind, and enormous accumulated wealth to draw upon. All these things are wanting in the East. We have established there order and peace; we have done away with local wars; we have lessened the ravages of pestilence and we do what we can—and, in ordinary seasons, we do it; with success—to mitigate the effects of destitution. The result is, naturally and necessarily, a vast increase of population; and if present appearances can be trusted, we shall have in very generation a larger aggregate of human beings relying upon us for help in those periods of distress which must from time to time, occur in a country wholly agricultural and liable to droughts. It is a difficulty which must be faced like all others, but to me it does not seem a light one One moral only I would draw from it in this room. Many people, as we know, are fond of indulging the idea of farther and farther extensions of the British Empire, as opportunity may occur. I think that those who hold that language hardly realize the magnitude and the weight of our present responsibilities. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) We must bear the burden which the incalculable course of human events has laid upon us; but we need not, and I think we should not go out of our way to make it heavier for ourselves and our successors. (Cheers.) I mention that only because it is a view of the question which I think does not always receive as much attention as it deserves. (Applause)

All this betokens that the whole heart of England has been moved by the Indian calamity, and is there an Indian, who has a mind to think and a heart to feel, but who will not exclaim—blessed be the nation, which thinks so generously, kindly, and earnestly of its subjects in distress! The *Times* we are glad to observe has appointed a special correspondent to report upon the Indian Famine. The writer seems to be full of generous sympathy. His last letter is replete with harrowing details. Nothing could be more sad than the picture he has drawn of the condition of not only the very poor but also of the better classes. He says: "All Hindus are charitable by nature. Most families have crowds of hungry hangers on, even in the best of times, but with this great dearth the family burdens have been greatly added to. In going through a street of the more wealthy part of the town, it is common to see at almost every house a number of poor people collected waiting for the daily dole of food, and in this way the native communities of this and other towns have been doing quietly and unostentatiously a great deal to help their poorer brethren in the struggle for life." The sufferings in Madras and Mysore have been in reality far greater than even the imagination could conjure up. Of course man should do what he can, but the rest must be in the hands of God!

THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH-WEST AND THE PUNJAB.

A FRIEND, who has lately gone up to Nyne Tal, writes, "the prospects I am sorry to say up here are very alarming. From Cawnpore to Moradabad there are really no crops at all; and unless there is rain, there can be no rubbi sowings!" A morning contemporary says, the weather in the N. W. P. has undergone no change in the last few days, not a drop of rain has fallen' while a fierce sun and a hot west wind are rapidly converting the country into a desert. Ploughing for the *rubbee* is at a complete standstill. The Government seems to be up and doing. At the meeting of the district authorities at Allahabad on Monday week, it was determined to open relief works in the worst parts of the Provinces at once. The district engineer of the Cawnpore division has started for the scene of operations, which is now decided on finally. The old Mogul (Badshai) road which runs between the boundary of the Futtehpore district and that of Etawah parallel to the Jumna, is to be raised a couple of feet and metalled, and maintained henceforward as a first-class road; while the grand trunk road between the same points is to be kept up only as second class road, and the road to Futtehgur will be prepared for a light railway. This latter work will be also probably made a relief work a little later on, but as there are few places where earthworks of any magnitude will be required, it is not considered quite eligible for the purpose,

skilled labour being wanted rather than ordinary coolie's work. In consequence of the return to Cawnpore of considerable quantities of wheat and other cereals, prices have fallen from 10½ to 12 seers of wheat per rupee. Up to the present time there is no extreme distress, we are glad to learn, though much individual suffering. The cotton crop will be a very poor one according to present prospects, and the dealers in the bazaar are speculating for a rise, and buying up all the yarn from the mills, at good prices. The scarcity of grass is now so great in the North-West, that the Oudh zemindars on whose land the Artillery grass-cutters usually collect forage for Government horses, have objected to any more being cut, and the civil authorities are backing them up in their objections, which we are told are perfectly just. Government will not pay for "*rukhs*," and if there is no rain, there will be considerable difficulty in feeding the horses, as of course the owners of grass lands will demand high prices for their forage. Grain riots have occurred in some parts of the Punjab. The poorer classes are clamorous against the bunias. The Punjab Government has had this matter under its consideration, and has issued a circular order on the subject. We give below the letter of the Punjab Government to the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab territories :

SIR,—Riots, more or less serious, have within the past week, taken place at Delhi, Umballa, and in the Rohtak districts, in consequence of the high and increasing price of grain ; and as such disturbance have a tendency to become epidemic, the Lieutenant Governor desires very briefly to point out the principles which the Government consider should be observed in dealing with the grain trade in the Punjab.

So far as the supply of food grains to those parts of India now afflicted by a famine is concerned, the policy of the Government of India has been clearly pronounced, and it is nothing less than an avoidance of all interference with the operations of private commercial enterprise ; the interference of the Government having no other possible effect than to decrease the total amount of food available and aggravate the distress, private enterprise is to be absolutely left to itself for the reason that it would be paralysed by Government competition.

This imperial policy applies to the Punjab as to all other parts of India, and interference with the grain trade of this province, with the object of reducing prices or keeping them at a low level would seriously interfere with the necessary supply of food grains to the famine-stricken districts to the south. But with regard to the local trade, the Lieutenant-Governor has observed that some officers consider that the banneahs and those holding stocks of food grains are behaving disgracefully, and running up prices in a speculative manner and entirely in their own interests, without any regard to the wants of the population which must obtain, at any price demanded, their necessary amount of food. But the high prices which now rule in the Punjab are not an unmixed evil. Speculators have, no doubt, come to the Punjab and in large numbers from Southern and Central India to buy up the stocks which are believed to exist in this province. This has, no doubt occasioned a large amount of speculation, and in some places a very sudden rise in prices, which is further stimulated by the demand which at this season always exists for seed grain. This rise in prices is an inevitable result of the competition which must exist on the side of the buyers raising the value of the commodity sold in a ratio which is the more uncertain, and is probably, the greater from the fact that the commodity purchased is a necessity of life.

What is economically known as the effectual demand being exceedingly great, owing to the severity of the famine in Southern and Central India, the sudden and great rise in price is in one way an advantage ; as it prevents the whole stocks of the Punjab from at once being withdrawn from the country. There is no doubt that during the next few months and until the next harvest is ripe, prices for food grains will rule exceedingly high in the Punjab, and this will cause distress to persons on fixed wages, while it will be a source of wealth to those of the agricultural and trading community who hold stocks of food grains in their possession.

The Lieutenant-Governor would accordingly desire all District Officers in the Punjab and their subordinates, to understand, that no interference should be permitted in the matter of fixing the prices of grain in the bazaars ; these must alone be regulated by those natural and general laws of value which are based on competition, and on demand and supply which are invariable and which cannot be interfered with without extreme danger.

At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor considers that any vexatious and capricious action on the part of grain dealers may be, in some measure, prevented by District Officers without bad effect. When complaints are made, as have reached His Honor during the last few days, that banniahs refuse to sell grain retail at all, that they refuse money offered, and threaten to close their shops there is no doubt room for judicious interference on the part of the Deputy Commissioner. It will be ordinarily, if not invariably found, that grain dealers do not refuse to sell. for to sell grain is their profession ; they only refuse to sell at the prices offered. Any complaint of refusal to sell on the part of grain dealers should be at once investigated by the Magistrate, and on the spot ; the chaudries of the grain bazars should be instructed, without Government interference as to rates, to fix the prices of grain as often as may be necessary, and to notify these rates in the most public manner. So long as this is done the grain dealers should be altogether safefrom violence. Magistrates and Police Officers must maintain the most careful watch that outbreaks and riots be not repeated in other towns. Should prices, by excessive demand and the keen competition of buyers from without, rise to such a level in the Punjab that certain classes of the community are unable to purchase sufficient food, the Government will then be prepared to assist them in such a manner as may be determined on ; but the evil of high prices will only be intensified by any official interference with the market price of grain.

The Punjab Government is right in ruling that there should be no interference with trade, that the imperial policy applies as much to the Punjab as to other afflicted tracts of the country. "But at the same time the Lieutenant-Governor considers that any vexatious and capricous action on the part of grain dealers may be, in some measure, prevented by District Officers without bad effect. When complaints are made, as have reached His Honor during the last few days, that banniahs refuse to sell grain retail at all, that they refuse money offered and threaten to close their shops, there is no doubt room for judicious interference on the part of the Deputy Commissioner. It will be ordinarily, if not invariably found, that grain dealers do not refuse to sell, for to sell grain is their profession ; they only refuse to sell at the prices offered, Any complaint of refusal to sell on the part of grain dealers should be at once investigated by the Magistrate and on the spot ; the chowdries of the grain bazaars should be instructed without Government interference as to rates to fix the prices of grain as often as may be necessary, and to notify these rates in the most public manner." But if this is not interference with private trade, we do not know what it is. We certainly sympathise with the poor sufferers, but will such interference benefit them in the end? If the grain-dealers find that they will not be allowed freedom of action, that the Chowdries of grain bazaars may fix the rates, and that the Chowdries will be backed by the Police and the Magistrate, they will naturally hesitate to import grain, and the result cannot but be disastrous. The Government cannot undertake to supply the grain through its own agency, nor is its policy to do so. It must leave the trade to the natural operation of the laws of demand and supply, and if the grain-dealers do not find it profitable to import grain, they will refuse to do so. What will then be the condition of the people ? Of course a combination among the grain-dealers in order to exact high prices is much to be deprecated, but such combination is sure to give way to competition. It would be much better if the Government would stimulate competition by the offer of bonuses or other considerations. But to arm the Chowdries of grain bazaars with power to fix the prices would be most undesirable. Such a power would open a loop-hole to peculation and abuse. It is true that the Government will not directly interfere, but to interfere through the Chowdries would have the same effect. We cannot believe that the Government of India will sanction the course adopted by the Punjab Government. We are aware that in the Punjab and in the North Western Provinces the Government has to deal with a class of people different from those in Madras and Bombay. They are an unruly race, and driven to disperation by hunger they may have recourse to overt acts of violence. But the Government must preserve the peace of the country. It must strengthen the Police, and a few examples will teach the turbulent wholesome lessons. To give in by them would be not only a sign of weakness but positively dangerous. The trade must be left to itself; the mahajans cannot be so forgetful of their own interests as to shut their shops ; they may attempt to do so for a day or two, but they cannot afford to stand out long. But as we have already observed if there be a combination, it ought to be broken up by competition, and it is for the Government to consider how competition can be induced and fostered. The circular of the Punjab Government in our humble opinion is most unwise and cannot be too soon withdrawn.

THE LAND AND THE FAMINE.

THE WARM sympathy, which the Famine in Southern India has evoked in England, will not we hope pass away with the immediate cause of it. We hope the English public will not be satisfied with affording immediate relief to the sufferers, but will take measures to so ameliorate the condition of the people as to enable them to resist successfully occasional pressure of this kind at times of drought and scarcity. On this subject our old friend, Mr. John Dacosta, has addressed a very sensible letter to a leading London paper, which we give below :

Kinloch-Rannoch, August 25, 1877.

Sir,—The public sympathy has been fully awakened by the publication of the telegrams from India setting forth the truly appalling condition of the people in the Presidency of Madras ; and the rapidity with which subscription lists are being filled speaks of the earnest desire of the people of England to afford relief to their suffering fellow-subjects in India. In order, however, to carry out those benevolent intentions effectually subscribers should see that their contributions are not wasted, and that measures are adopted for avoiding mistakes and preventing frauds such as in 1874 diverted no inconsiderable portion of the funds that had been set apart for famine relief. On that occasion individuals, without incurring risk, and with scarcely any outlay of capital, realised in a few months excessive profits, on the conveyance of grain, estimated, in several instances, at ten, twenty, and thirty thousand pounds ; while Government underlings, by means of fictitious returns, appropriated money which was intended for the relief of the starving population.

Let us also hope that, public attention being now directed to the condition of the people of India, some-thing more than temporary relief will be the result of the interest which is being manifested, and that an inquiry will be instituted, through a Royal Commission or some equally efficient instrument, as to the cause of the increasing poverty among the agricultural classes in India, in consequence of which a large portion of the population is reduced to depend upon public charity whenever an unfavourable season occurs. Drought or unusualy inundation has, in all countries, led to deficient crops and dearness of food ; but wherever the people are industrious and thrifty, as the people of India are known to be, they have, when allowed to reap the fruit of their labour, managed to make in good years a provision for adverse times. For instance, the ryots in the Permanent Settlement districts of Bengal have, under the protection of that Settlement, been able materially to improve their condition by applying their savings to improvement of their farms, and many of them have succeeded in purchasing the perpetual lease of their fields, whereby they have been converted from tenants-at-will into peasant proprietors subject to a quit rent ; while many others are by similar means striving to attain the same position. This will explain the facility with which the effects of the drought in Bengal were overcome in 1874.

In the Madras Presidency on the other hand, the people being annually exposed to enhanced demands from the revenue officers, and having their land already assessed at rates which it can bear only after a very favourable season, are in general unable to effect savings; nor is there any inducement for them to apply their casual savings to the improvement of their fields, seeing that the produce of the capital they might thus apply would not be secured to them, but be exposed to be absorbed in the Government demand through an increased assessment the following year.

In the Bombay Presidency, again, the land revenue is not as a rule revised annually; and many landholders—who are protected by the terms of the settlements against enhanced demands for ten and in some instances for twenty years—have been able to effect savings on which they have been subsisting during the present famine. The liability of the land, however, to priodical revisions of the Government demand has here, as in Madras, deterred ryots from applying their savings to the improvement of their farms. Those savings have been invested in gold and silver ornaments, through the sale of which thousands of families have been able to tide over hard times, without having recourse to public charity. This circumstance will, in a great measure, account for the distress being less severe in the Bombay Presidency than it is in Madras.

That the policy under which the land tax has been rapidly increased of late years is a short-sighted policy may be seen, not only by the extent of land it has caused to be thrown out of cultivation and the burden it has imposed on the Government of maintaining an impoverished population at the expense of the public, but also from the fact that the increase made in the land assessments, instead of producing a larger income, has, through the desertion of cultivators, led to a falling off in the revenue—an evil which threatens to become more serious every year as long as the suicidal policy of over-taxing the source of national wealth is persisted in—

I am, &c. J. DACOSTA.

This is a vitally important subject. Madras is the poorest province in all British India, and there the Ryotwary system has ground down the people. It is true that the ryots in the periodically settled estates are comparatively better off, but only comparatively. The Deccan riots show what the condition of the people in Bombay is. Even cotton prosperity has not materially changed the condition of the agricultural population of the Western Presidency. But how are people in the much abused permanently settled districts of Bengal faring? The last two numbers of the *Calcutta Gazette* contain Resolutions of the Bengal Government pointing with pride to the growing prosperity of the people. We gave last week extracts from the reports of the Presidency and Rajshaye Divisions on this point. Last Wednesday's *Gazette* contains Resolutions on the reports of the Dacca and Bhaugulpore Divisions, and they tell the same pleasing tale. We read that in the opinion of the Dacca Commissioner "there can be no doubt that the material condition of the agricultural portion of the population is one of great and increasing prosperity, and as consequence of rapidly advancing independence." The Commissioner continues : "The style of

living of the peasantry has quite changed. They are well-housed, well-fed, and well-clothed; their women and children wear ornaments; their utensils are of metal instead of, as formerly, earthenware; they sleep on platforms instead of mats, and are covered with quilts well stuffed with cotton in place of the rags of cloth that in former years sufficed for this purpose." Even such a dire calamity as the cyclone and storm-wave of last October in the district of Backergunge did not utterly prostrate the people. The Resolution says, "that up to the 31st October last the most prosperous ryots in all Bengal were those of Backergunge, and amongst them the ryots of Dukhin Shabazpore were better off than all their brethren. In one night they lost their cattle, most of their crops, and a large section of their population. After which came a pestilence sweeping off thousands of the survivors and crushing the spirits of those who still remained. Yet notwithstading all these unprecedented misfortunes, the country is already recovering from the shock. Houses have been re-built, cattle imported, and it is hoped that even this year there will be hardly any land left fallow from want of men to cultivate it. The suspension of the Government demand, the loans advanced, and the relief afforded by private subscriptions to the absolutely destitute have been sufficient to give the people the start they needed. In the rest of the district the ryots seem hardly at all to have felt the damage done." All this is very cheering. The Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division reports: "The people are advancing, though slowly, in intelligence and wealth: they look happy and contented. Marriages are numerous, and fairs and religious festivals well-attended. Coolies cannot be as easily obtained as formerly and the prices of labour are supposed to be going up." In Purneah the trade in jute and oil-seeds has added largely to the ryots' means, while Maldah has specially benefited, though it is to be feared only temporarily, by the higher prices of silk cocoons. The Commissioner attributes the reluctance which the people show to emigrate to their want of enterprise and their content with the competence which they can now secure at home.

Such is the condition of the people who are under the much abused Permanent Settlement. The springs of industry in the permanently settled districts in Bengal are not clogged as in the ryotwary districts of Madras or the periodically settled districts of other parts of India. Whatever enhancement of rent the zemindars may obtain either by suit or by voluntary contributions of the ryots, called cesses, it bears a very small proportion to the profits which they are making for the employment of their labor under a stable, progressive, and benignant Government. But it is different in the other provinces. There the ryot cannot "make any improvement" without submitting to fresh assessment, and he has therefore no strong incentive to exertion.

As another proof of the capacity of the people in the permanently settled districts of Bengal to resist pressure we may point to the high prices, which are now raging throughout Bengal in consequence of large exportation of food-grains to Madras. We give a comparative table below:

Districts.	Rice, common. Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
BENGAL.			
Western Districts.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch
Burdwan	13 12	13 0	24 0
Bankoora	17 0	17 8	27 0
Beerbhoom	14 0	14 8	24 0
Midnapore	18 0	17 0	28 0
Hooghly	11 0	11 8 to 12 0	21 0
Howrah	11 8	11 8	20 8
Central Districts.			
Calcutta	12 0	11 8	18 0
24-Pergns.	9 4	9 6	17 8
Nuddea	10 10	12 5	19 9
Jessore	13 0	12 12	26 0

Districts.	Rice, common. Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
Noakholly	13 0	15 0	16 0
Tipperah	13 0	13 0	20 0
Chittagong			
Hill Tracts	10 10	9 8	32 0
Hill Tipperah	18 0	20 0	32 0
BEHAR.			
Patna	13 0	...	..
Gya	14 8	16 0	17 12
Shahabad	13 8	14 8	19 0
Durbhunga	13 8	14 4	16 0
Mozuffer-pore	12 0	14 0	15 0
Saran	12 8	13 8	19 0
Chumparun	16 0	14 0	18 8
Monghyr	11 10	11 5	17 8
Moorshedabad	10 8 to 13 8	12 0 to	23 0
Dinagepore	19 3	19 3	28 8
Rajshahye	14 4	14 4	21 0
Rungpore	15 12 to 18 0	16 6 to 22 8	22 8
Bogra	15 12	16 8	24 8
Pubna	13 8	15 0	30 0
Darjeeling	12 0	12 0	12 0
Julpigoree	14 0	1 15	16 0
Eastern Districts			
Dacca	12 4	14 6	23 0
Furreedpore	12 0	12 0	27 0
Backergunge	11 0	14 0	23 0
Mymensingh	13 0	13 4	24 0
Chittagong	13 0	12 0	17 0
Bhugulpore	12 10	13 14	17 11
Purneah	17 0 to 20 0	20 0 to 24 0	29 0
Malda	14 8	16 8	24 0
Sonthal Perguns.	14 8	15 0	20 0
ORISSA.			
Cuttack	12 7	14 7	22 5
Pooree	11 13	11 13	24 0
Balasore	14 0	15 0	32 0
CHOTA NAGPORE.			
South-Western Frontier Agency			
Hazarebagh	16 8	17 0	21 0
Lohardugga	20 0 to 24 0		20 0 30 0
Singbhoom	36 0	40 0	40 0
Manbhoom	21 0	20 0	24 0

It will be seen from the above that the prices have almost doubled in most of the districts of the Bengal Provinces, and although there is distress among the destitute, particularly among the middle class, which have fixed incomes, it cannot be denied that the bulk of the people do not want extraneous assistance. Such high prices in other parts of the country would have necessitated measures of State relief or public subscriptions. It is true that the people throughout Bengal are now feeling the pressure of high prices; in some cases there is from what we hear severe distress, but beyond the necessity of casual relief here and there the people as a body do not stand in need of charitable relief. The Permanent Settlement has thus proved an insurance against famine sufferings, such as are prevailing in other parts of the country, and the Government cannot do better than extend this boon throughout the country.

DETERIORATION.

Are the Indian services deteriorating? The stringent measures taken by the Viceroy for the administration of Famine Relief in Madras and Mysore seem to indicate that they are deteriorating. In Madras the whole administrative machinery has been condemned. Whether the idea that the famine administration of the Presidency should be taken out of the hands of the ordinary executive originated with the Governor or with the Governor-General, it matters little; the fact is patent that this revolutionary measure has been inaugurated, and we take it to mean a strong condemnation of the administration of Madras. His Excellency the Viceroy says that "he is greatly pleased to find that the Government of Madras has decided that the Famine Department shall be under the immediate guidance and control of the Governor; and that some shortening of the administrative chain has been found possible. The Viceroy believes that much benefit to the afflicted populations, in whose behalf His Grace has done so much, as well as great financial advantage to the public treasury, cannot fail to result from the increased efficiency of action and the improved unity of control, which will be secured by the arrangements now made" Mr. Bernard, Additional Secretary with the Viceroy, adds, "I am however to point out that it is essential to the efficiency of this arrangement, that all famine papers and questions submitted to the Government shall pass through the hands of the Personal Assistant, as was settled at the conference above referred to. It is of course by no means suggested, nor is it at all desirable, that any obstacle should be placed in the way of the personal relations of the Secretariat with, and access to, the Governor of Madras. But it is absolutely necessary that the Personal Assistant to the Governor, accredited as he is by the Government of India, should have full opportunity of stating his views to the Governor at the proper time." Similar measures have been adopted for Mysore. Mr. S. C. Bayley, Additional Secretary, thus writes to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore:

"In order to assist you in the arduous task of introducing these changes and of supervising the famine administration of Mysore generally, the Government of India have been pleased to place at your disposal, as Famine Commissioner, Mr. C A. Elliott. c.s., with Mr. Wingate of the Bombay Civil Service as your Additional Secretary in the Famine Department.

The Famine Commissioner will assist you in directing all famine operations in the provinces of Mysore and Coorg, and subject to your approval on matters of importance or principle, will issue orders on your behalf through the Commissioners or through the ordinary official channel under the signature of the Famine Secretary. He should have authority when travelling in the interior to give instruction in your name to the local officers, in accordance with the policy of the Government of India and the Chief Commissioner, such instructions being, of course, reported to you and being likewise communicated to the Commissioners of Divisions. The Famine Commissioner should, moreover, have an opportunity of laying his view before you on all correspondence connected with famine matters that may come up to you for orders.

Further,

The duties of Mr. C. A. Elliott, who has been appointed as Famine Commissioner in this province, are stated in para. 12 of Mr. Bayley's despatch under reference, and it is necessary only on this point for the Chief Commissioner to direct that all written, or in minor matters of detail, verbal instructions which may be given by that officer direct to the Deputy Commissioners should be promptly carried out. The Chief Commissioner relies on the hearty and loyal co-operation of the Division and District Commissioners in affording to the Famine Commissioners that support which will be needed for the successful accomplishment of his duties.

Now, what do these measures indicate? Do they not imply that the existing administrations of Madras and Mysore have been weighed in the balance and found wanting—that the Viceroy has not confidence in them, that His Excellency has therefore appointed officers in charge of the famine department from other provinces in whom he has special confidence? This is a serious and extreme measure, and His Excellency, we feel satisfied, would not have had recourse to it, if he had not been thoroughly convinced of its necessity. His Excellency feels that the famine campaign is as important as a military campaign, and that if the old generals are not competent to wield the command, they must make room for those, who are fit to do so. Now, the question is whence this deterioration? How is it that the administrative machinery of Madras and Mysore has broken down so sadly? Is it that the old experienced men at the helm of affairs have lost their knowledge, experience, ability, and energy, or is there anything in the present system, of administration, which checks official efficiency? In Madras the officers come in direct contact with the people in consequence of the ryotwarry settlement; they know every acre of land and every cultivator who tills it; they are or ought to be well acquainted with the material condition of the people, and if with their extensive knowledge of the country, they have failed to organize an efficient system of relief for the alleviation of distress, they must be men greatly differing from their brethren of the other provinces, or the system under which they have been reared up is radically at fault. Judging from a distance we cannot positively say whether or no the men have actually broken down, but when the Viceroy has taken such an extreme measure, we must take it as a conclusive verdict against their efficieney. And what is the cause of this collapse? Possibly want of sympathy with the people. It is true that they come into direct and personal contact with the masses through the channel of the Ryotwarry settlement, but if they do not look upou them with a sympathetic eye, if they only see the outer surface and do not look beneath it, if they simply perform their duties as matters of routine and do not throw their heart into the work, if they do not seek to unravel the inner mechanism of society but blindly follow the threads, as they are placed in their hands, it is no matter of wonder that they should fail when a crisis should come. Then the dull mediocrity, which now seems to fill the service, is perhaps to a certain extent responsible for the present break-down at Madras and Mysore. A few properly trained minds with sharp eyes and pens, would have perhaps given a differerent turn to the position of things in Madras and Mysore.

CHOLERA AND TANKS.

Facts are stubborn things. While we admire Dr. Payne's zeal in pursuing his cholera investigations, we cannot help saying that the facts

which he has himself recorded go against his theory. In his second quarterly report the learned Doctor wrote: "The evidence on which I continue to urge the adoption of these measures (evacuation and filling up of tanks) is, as before, the fact that wherever cholera has prevailed there has been foul water, and where the water has been removed, cholera has diminished." But in his memorandum on mortality in August last he remarks: "The annual death-rate of August was higher than that of any corresponding month since 1868. Cholera having, in the previous months, been exceptionally scarce, produced in August 77 deaths, a higher number than any recorded since the introduction of filtered water." Now, the question is why was there such a large increase of cholera deaths? Dr. Payne says, "wherever the disease appeared in quantity, it showed the usual close connexion with foul tanks, and isolated cases were traced to contaminated wells." But were not "foul tanks" and "contaminated wells" in existence before, and if foul water, not drunk, was the cause of cholera, why did not the disease prevail so fiercely in August of previous years as it did in last August? There was a general impression that during the rains cholera prevails less intensely than in other seasons, but the terrible rate of mortality last month, when the rains were incessant, has falsified that impression. The evacuation and filling in of the tanks were urged so strongly by Dr. Payne on the assumption that they would prevent cholera, but notwithstanding his raid against the tanks we find that cholera raged much more furiously last August than in the corresponding month of previous years. These facts have necessarily unsettled the faith of the public in Dr. Payne's theory. He has it will be observed slightly diverged from his own point. In his second quarterly report he said that "wherever cholera has prevailed there has been foul water, and where the water has been removed, cholera has diminished." This was a very broad assertion. Now he modifies it by saying that "wherever the disease appeared *in quantity*, it shewed the usual close connection with foul tanks." The italics are ours. But let us see whether the "close connection" is established by facts. We give below a statement shewing the number of tanks de-watered and the number of cholera deaths in the different wards of the town:

Wards.	No. of deaths.	No. of Tanks De-watered.	Wards.	No. of deaths.	No. of Tanks De-watered.
Shampooker ...	2	1	Bowbazar ...	4	2
Coomertoly ...	6	3	Puddopooker ..	3	12
Burtollah ...	4	27	Waterloo Street...	1	...
Sukea's Street ...	2	3	Fenwickbazar ...	5	...
Jorabagan ...	15	1	Toltollah ...	8	7
Jorasanko ...	10	10	Collinga		3
Burrabazar ...	3	...	Park Street		..
Colootollah		6	Bamun Bustee ...	3	...
Moocheepara ...	2	5	Hastings ...	2	...

Now, does the above statement shew that cholera obeys the law laid down by Dr. Payne? In the Jorasanko ward no less than ten tanks were de-watered, but there were 10 deaths from cholera, and in the Toltollah ward, where special sanitary measures were adopted, there were no less than 8 deaths. In Burtollah again there were 27 tanks de-watered, but there were four deaths, while in Burra Bazar and Fenwick Bazar, where there are few tanks and no tanks were de-watered, there were three and five deaths from cholera in those wards respectively. So it comes to this—that cholera prevails in all places whether there is foul water or not, that it follows a mysterious law of its own, which the doctors have not yet been able to discover.

Such being the case we have been not a little surprised to see that the Municipal Commissioners have served notices upon "all proprietors of open tanks" indiscriminately to de-water and fill their tanks. The Health-Officer's proposal is contained in the following memorandum, which has been circulated to the Commissioners, and which we give below in order to obviate misunderstanding:

It is proposed, with the Chairman's approval, that notices be issued about the middle of the current month to all proprietors of open tanks to de-water and fill their tanks. These notices will be in the terms of the Act. Lest there should arise an impression that sudden and indiscriminate action is intended against all tanks, and alarm should be created, it is well to state before-hand for the information of the Commissioners the precise object of this measure.

Before the rains, several instances occurred in which it was necessary to order the evacuation of tank water on sudden emergency. This could only be done at the expense of the Municipality. No funds had been specially provided, and such money as could be used for the purpose soon came to an end. To issue a notice which should run for a month would have been futile.

In October cholera must be expected to increase, and the cases of sudden emergency to become numerous. There will be no money to do promptly even so much as was done before, nor is it right that the Municipality should be called on to pay for work done on the property of men who are themselves able to pay for it. Accordingly, in order that, in every case of necessity, we may be in a position to proceed at the cost of proprietors, I have advised that notices be issued at such date that they may have expired when need arises for action, to all proprietors of tanks from which the public health is likely to suffer.

The procedure will be the same as at present, the cases for action will be determined as they have been hitherto and will be referred to the Tank Committee, the only difference being that we shall be in a position to take all necessary action without reference to the Municipal Funds.

A. J. Payne, M. D.,
3rd September 1877. *Health Officer.*

We give below a form of the notice, which has been served on "all proprietors of open tanks:"

Take notice that as the Tank situated in—of which you are the recorded owner appears to the Commissioners to be injurious to health and offensive to the neighbourhood you are hereby required, within one month from the service of this notice, under Section 257 of Act IV (B.C.) of 1876, to remove the water and fill up the said tank with dry material; and that in default of compliance with this notice the provisions of the said section will be enforced and all necessary acts for all or any of the purposes aforesaid will be done by the Commissioners as they shall think fit, and the expense incurred thereby shall be recoverable from you.

18*th September* 1877.

Now, are the memorandum and the notice consistent. The Health-Officer in his memorandum says, "the procedure will be the same as at present, the cases for action will be determined as they have been hitherto and will be referred to the Tank Committee, the only difference being that we shall be in a position to take all necessary action without reference to the Municipal Funds." But the notice requires the proprietor to de-water and fill up his tank within one month, and in default he will be liable to fine and cost. The notices have been served indiscriminately upon "all proprietors of open tanks," whether these tanks be good or bad; the Health-Officer has not examined them, and the Ward Commissioners or the Tank Committee have not inspected them, and yet the proprietors are told, "whereas your tank appears to the Commissioners to be injurious to health and offensive to the neighbourhood, you are hereby required to de-water and fill it up." Now, could any thing be more capricious and arbitrary than this? No wonder that there is a panic among these proprietors. Some of them have represented to us that they have already de-watered and re-excavated their tanks under a previous notice, and yet they have been served with this fresh notice. One of them tells us that his tank will be taken over by the Commissioners for a road, and another that the water of his tank is so good that people drink it, and yet they have been served with notices to de-water and fill them up. The Health-Officer says, "in October cholera must be expected to increase, and the cases of sudden emergency to become numerous." It may be so, but are people to be harassed indiscriminately for something in the womb of the future? We do not object to the evacuation and filling up of foul tanks, but examine them under the procedure prescribed, and if they are found to be really bad, by all means enforce the law. But no steps have been taken towards that end. Notices have been served indiscriminately without any previous enquiry or examination. The proper course would have been for the Health-Officer and the Tank Committee to examine the tanks and then to issue the necessary orders. But instead of doing this the executive have put the cart before the horse. They have passed the sentence first—de-water and fill up the tanks—and trial or investigation will follow afterwards. The Lieutenant Governor condemned the Commissioners the other day for making "acrimonious speeches" at general meetings, for in fact washing their dirty linen in the sun, and advised them to do their business in Committee, but what can they do when the Committee is ignored? Was the Tank Committee consulted before this indiscriminate issue of notices, and if not, why not? Will His Honor be good enough to call for an explanation upon this point? At the last meeting of the Corporation the Chairman said that no one thought of paying much attention to notices from the Corporation, and that there was, therefore, no reason for fear. We are inclined to think that there need be no fear as the Chairman we are satisfied will not personally take hasty action. But we deprecate the indiscriminate service of the notices as it leaves the proprietors in a state of uncertainty. The proprietors do not know which tanks will come under condemnation upon examination, but if they in the meantime do not comply with the notice, they may be mulcted in case their tanks come under condemnation. It is this state of uncertainty, which causes uneasiness, irritation, and dissatisfaction.

THE CAMPBELL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

We stated last week that Dr. Woodford, superintendent of the Campbell Medical school, was about to retire, and suggested that the appointment ought to be conferred upon a native officer. We now hear that it is proposed to give the appointment to a covenanted Medical officer When this post was originally created, it was intended by Sir George Campbell that it should be reserved for an uncovenanted officer whether European or Native. Sir George Campbell thus wrote in his Resolution dated the 18th August 1873: "It would probably be necessary to have a selected European medical officer or a first rate native officer on almost as high pay as Superintendent at Sealdah to maintain discipline and direct the classes. The appointment of the Police Surgeon who has now charge of the Sealdah Hospital might perhaps be re-arranged in connection with this scheme, if the Justices agree. A native House-Surgeon might be substituted for the apothecary now resident at the hospital." It is evident from the wording of the Resolution that the object of Government was to appoint "a selected European medical officer or a first-rate Native officer," and as the latter is in the uncovenanted service, it was obviously the intention of Government that it should be reserved for that branch of the service. There were special reasons why the appointment was first conferred upon Dr. Woodford. He was the Surgeon in charge of the Pauper Hospital, and as that Hospital was made an adjunct to the Campbell school, it was thought desirable to appoint him superintendent of the school. But those reasons will cease to exist on his retirement. The Government in 1873 declared that the appointment might be conferred upon a "first-rate Native officer," and if the Government in 1877 carries out that intention, it will not be doing any injustice to the covenanted branch of the medical service. Dr. Woodford is himself an uncovenanted officer. Objection is often raised when any appointment ordinarily filled by the covenanted officer is given to an uncovenanted officer. But here the reverse, it is rumoured, would be the case. It is proposed to confer upon a covenanted officer the appointment hitherto filled by an uncovenanted officer. We cannot believe that Mr. Eden contemplates such a flagrant injustice. There are particularly good reasons why this post should be given to "a first-rate native officer." It is a gross anomaly that a European officer, necessarily ignorant of the vernacular, should be placed at the head of a vernacular school. One of the functions of the Superintendent of the school, according to the Government Resolution of 1873, is "to direct the classes," but with what success can the European Superintendent "direct the classes," when he is ignorant of the language in which the lectures are delivered. It is his duty to select text-books, but his ignorance of the vernacular disqualifies him for that task, Then again medical literature in Bengali is yet in its infancy, and the Superintendent can exercise a salutary influence by directing the course of this branch of literature, but his ignorance of the vernacular again disqualifies him for that task.

Further, on the score of economy the appointment of a "first-rate native officer" would be very desirable. Dr. Woodford is charged with the superintendence of the School and Hospital and receives Rs. 550 for this work. He is also professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the Medical College, and Police Surgeon, and these duties take up a considerable portion of his time. Now, if one of the teachers of the school be appointed Superintendent, a saving of Rs. 300 may be

effected. The native Superintendent should be charged with the task of tuition, and then the salary of the teacher would be saved. His pay as Superintendent would be Rs. 550, but his salary as teacher, viz., Rs. 300 per month, would be saved. As for the Hospital, surely a "first-rate native officer" would be fully competent to superintendent it. A native officer is Superintendent of the North Suburban Hospital, which though not so large as the Pauper Hospital is still an important institution, and the work there is going on satisfactorily enough. Then native officers are put in independent medical charge of districts, and if they are deemed competent for such responsible charge, surely a "first-rate native officer" will be found competent as the Superintendent of the Pauper Hospital. We have heard that the senior teachers of the school are not disposed to take the appointment for private reasons. We can understand these reasons, for they would not like to give up their private practice. It is the same with the Medical College Professors. The senior medical officers, who act as professors in the Medical College, would not accept the Principalship simply because they would not give up their private practice. But there are junior teachers of the Campbell Medical School, who by reason of their standing in the service, general abilities, professional attainments, and distinguished services have good claims to the appointment. We need hardly add that the appointment of a native to this post comes strictly within the scope of the Despatch of Her Majesty's Government on the employment of natives. It is an appointment, which has been held by an uncovenanted officer, and requires qualifications, which the native alone possesses; when it was created it was reserved for the uncovenanted service, and on the score of both efficiency and economy it may fitly be given to a native. As Mr. Eden's policy is to give appointments to natives, for which they are qualified, and in which others have no vested right, we hope His Honor will not overlook the claims of the native medical service to this prize appointment.

BULGARIA UNDER THE "UNSPEAKABLE TURK," AND THE AVENGING COSSACK.

IN the letters published in the London *Daily News* a pretty picture is afforded of Bulgaria under the "unspeakable Turk" and the avenging Cossack, the liberator of the "oppressed Christian." This is what a correspondent writes of the condition of Bulgaria under the Turks:

"Any number of officers, many of a high rank and more than one in the personal suite of His Majesty the Emperor, have spoken to me without reserve on a topic which is of deep interest for us all. They declare themselves to have laboured under the most profound misconception as to the condition of the Bulgarian Christians. They had believed them oppressed, impeded, impoverished, impeded in the exercise of their religion sure not for an hour of their lives, of the honour of their women, of their property. It was in this belief that they thrilled with enthusiasm for a veritable war of liberation. And, they continue, how do we actually find the Bulgarians? They live in the most perfect comfort; the Russian peasant cannot compare with them in comfort, competence, or prosperity. Personally, I may add that I should be glad if the English peasantry were at all near them in these attributes. Their grain crops stretch far and wide. Every village has its teeming herds of cattle, brood mares with foals, goats and sheep. The houses are palaces compared with the subterranean hovels of the Roumanian and Wallachian peasants. Last year's straw is yet in their stackyards. Milk may be bought in every house. In the villages, for one mosque, there are half-a-dozen Christian churches."

The *Civil and Military Gazette* says: "The Cossack party must be delighted at the havoc which unprovoked and iniquitous war has wrought, in the once smiling and beautiful country of Bulgaria. The sickening picture drawn of Biela to-day by the correspondent of the *Daily News*, as contrasted with the condition of the pretty little town but a few weeks ago under the rule of the "unspeakable" Turk, must fill the hearts of the Russophils with joy, as they can see and trace the steps of Holy Russia in the truly philanthropic, pure and unselfish efforts in behalf of the hitherto oppressed Bulgarian Christians. This is the sort of place Biela was while in possession of the "atrocious" and "infamous" Turk:

"When I rode into Biela a month ago, on the day when old General Arnoldi crowned the heights above it, it struck me that I had never seen a prettier or sweeter spot. Nestled in a narrow valley, along the bottom of which wimpled a clear gushing stream, fed by half a dozen pellucied fountains, and turning as many mills the spray from whose water wheels cooled the air, and stimulated verdure where it fell, the detached houses each within its own yard, or "compound," as they would say in India, were planted on the little flat patches by the water side, or climbed the steep green slopes in picturesque confusion. Except in one place there was no street, and the roads wound about, toying with the stream, or circling the farmyards, or winding round the little green God's acre, with the humble, half subterranean church."

Our contemporary says, only contrast this with the noble result achieved by Russia's magnanimous interference:

"It would not be easy—no, not in Lorraine, where the village street is one huge dunghill; no, not in Roumania, where the hovels are burroughs thatched with muck; no, not in Connemara, where the pigs and the children wallow together in the same gutter; no, not in rural Bengal, where the village tank is a liquid abomination—to find a place that can have any pretensions to excel in foulness the Biela of today. It is the residence of an empire; it is the head-quarters, too, of evil odours, of horrible miasma, of exhalations, which make sick the heart of man. The palace is the abandoned house of a Turkish Bey; its windows smashed by the Bulgarians, repaired with white paper and oiled silk, a poor place at the best, reduced to dilapidation by the virulent animosity of the Bulgarian population. Its furniture is the camp equipment of his Majesty; its garden is thedining hall where the mess table is set out under a great marquee; its court-yard boasts the largest and the foulest gutter in the place, and all around soldiers are billeted and horses picketted. Dead horses rot in the lanes on the outside of the fence enclosing the Imperial gardens; lanes all but impassable from filth. In the baking heat, the place seems almost to ferment and sweat with sheer putrefaction."

Our contemporary thus comments on the above:

"Could anything depict more vividly the inestimable blessings attendant on Russian occupation and influence. And when we come to consider that tens of thousands of men have been killed round this once peaceful spot, their festering corpses now poisoning the air which the wretched Turk but the other day perfumed with gardens of roses, why we can feel how sweet must be the emotions of the Cossack party, as they recognize and glory in their handiwork.

Think of the pleasure it must give to the hardy Russian soldier to reduce the quiet hamlets and blooming gardens of Turkish Bulgaria to the naked simplicity of his own rude and unsophisticated hovel.

Think of the thousands of women and children living but a few weeks ago in these bright and cheerful Bulgarian villages, under the Government of the brutal and tyrannical Turks, and who are now houseless and defenceless wanderers, under the patronage of their brave and humane liberators, the Russians.

The "oppressed Christian" cannot but be grateful to the Czar who has brought him liberty. The Czar himself must be truly grateful to the plotting state craft, that has enabled him to effect so much human misery in so short a time, the slaughter of his own subjects by scores of thousands, the humiliation heaped on his armies, and the imminent peril in which richly merited defeat has placed his throne" his dynasty, and his life. All these advantages have accrued from the duplicity, treachery and cruelty innate in the Russian statesman, backed, encouraged and supported by the same qualities in the Cossack party in England.

No one can doubt their triumph now. They have had their war, they have turned a garden into a desert, they have relieved the oppressed Christians—of their property and a good many of their lives—they have poured out blood like water, until even they, though fired with the spirit of the "fine old Puritan Captain, Miles Standish," must be glutted with the slaughter.

And they have done it all without any expense save of words, and indeed many of them have made a good deal of money out of it. A very pleasant thing indeed".

We have nothing to add to the above. We wish the Indian reader would ponder over the condition of Bulgaria under the "unspeakable Turk" and the avenging Cossack. And it was under Divine guidance the Czar proclaimed War against Turkey!

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE FOLLOWING is a telegraphic summary of the weather and crop reports for the week ending the 27th ultimo published in last Saturday's *Gazette of India*:

For Madras good general rain everywhere most beneficial, agricultural operations actively progressing, rice crops being harvested, fair outturn in southern districts, small in northern. For Mysore general rain, prospects, decidedly improved. For Bombay good rain throughout Deccan and South Mahratta country, where crops are thriving, more wanted in Khandesh and urgently wanted in Gujrat. In Sind river low, prospects bad. For Central Provinces no rain except trifling showers in Chindwara and Seoni. Long break in rains causing anxiety for Kharif especially for rice crop in Saugor and Damoh; for Berar no rain, crops generally good, rain required. For Central India no rain except at Neemuch rain greatly needed everywhere for Rabi. Immigration into Malwa continues. For Rajputana only trifling showers in Haranti, Ajmir and Alwar, prospects not improved. For Bengal proper prospects favourable, heavy rain in Northern districts, little in Bhagulpour Division, and in Patna Division propects unfavourable, except parts of Tirhoot, rain also wanted in Pooree. For Assam prospects good, copious rain in Sylhet little in Valley districts. For Burmah rainfall moderate, crops promising. For North-West drought, west wind. For Panjab almost rainless prospects bad except Multan.

WE ARE glad to observe that the good example, which has been set in Calcutta, is being followed in the districts. The small station of Raneegunge held a Famine Relief Meeting last week, and the sum of Rs. 4,000 was subscribed on the spot. We have received the following telegram on the 28th instant:

Famine meeting held at Raneegunge on the 25th. Subscribed about Rs4000 Moharanee Horosoondoree Dabee 1000 Raja Bissessur Malia Bahadoor in chair. H. Savage and Radhakissen Sen Secretaries.

Raja Bisse ssar Malia has taken the lead in this movement. We hope his praiseworthy example will be followed in other districts.

WE HAVE received the proceedings of a Famine Relief Meeting held at Howrah under the auspices of theH owrah People's Association. The following Resolutions were passed at this meeting:

Proposed by Babu D. N. Banerjee,

"I.—That this meeting views with deep alarm the tidings of distress in Madras, and feels the urgent necessity for aiding in the relief of the sufferers from the famine which is prevailing to such an extent in that Presidency."

This resolution was amended as follows by Baboo Umesh Chander Kur, the amendment being seconded by Rev. Father A. E. Medlycott:—"That the subscriptions to be raised be applied not only to the relieving the distress at present prevailing in the Presidency of Madras but be forwarded to also, in part to the Indian Famine Relief Fund in aid of the expected scarcity in the N. W. P. and other parts of India."

Proposed by Babu Upendro Chandra Mitra.

"II.—That subscription lists be set afoot soliciting aid in furtherance of the object which this Meeting has in view."

Seconded by Mr. A. C. Mitra.

Proposed by Babu Nar Sing Datta,

"III.—That aCommittee composed of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be appointed to adopt measures for collecting subscriptions which may be forwarded along with those now made in Calcutta.

An influential Committee was accordingly appointed. We hope similar meetings will be held in other districts.

GOOD NEWS for the students of the Civil Engineering Class of Bengal. Those who know Mr. Eden need not be told that what he says he means, and that what he means he does. He lately issued a circular to the effect that the ex-students of the Civil Engineering Class should be appointed to the Engineering staff of the Road Cess Committees. We hear that no less than 150 names of outside persons had been sent up to the Lieutenant Governor for appointment to the Engineering staff of the Road Cess Department, and he has refused every one of them, saying that the Committees must appoint the passed students of the Civil Engineering College, who were pining away for want of employment.

IN 1874 the Secretary of State addressed a Despatch to the Governor-General in Council stating that he had received an application from the War Office for the collection of Indian drugs to be supplied to the Museum at Netley, in illustration of the Indian Pharmacopæa, and directing the Government of India to take steps for the necessary collection in each of the three Presidencies of British India. Lord Salisbury suggested the name of Babu Kanyelal Dey Rai Bahadur for the Bengal collection. Accordingly the Rai Bahadur was requested to make the necessary collection, which he has completed after two years' continuous labour and research. He has also prepared a valuable list of the drugs, giving the Indian and botanical names, and their medicinal properties as tested in practical use by native physicians. The Government has now conveyed its thanks to Babu Kanyelal Dey for his valuable services in this matter. As a member of the Central Committee of the Bengal Economic Museum Babu Kanyelal has set on foot a very extensive enquiry on the subject of drugs, and when the collections are completed and the reports collated, a most valuable contribution will be made to the Indian Pharmacopæia.

THE LEADER is gentlemanly this week. The light is evidently dawning upon it at last about the drainage of Bally. It no longer talks of

Mr. Whitfield's famous levels or Dr. Lethbridge's brilliant theory of upward drainage. It does not also contest the truth of our statement that the present defective drainage of Bally is due to its diversion from the natural level and outfall of the town, and to consequent suspension of all drainage outflow from the town for 9 hours in every 24. But it has made another discovery. It says that what we call "the natural drainage outlet of Bally" is filled with tidal water in a far greater proportion than with rainfall. The writer continues: "Not only is the overflow from the Jheel completely stopped like any other drainage outlet, so long as the tide is above the level of the Jheel, but the height of the Jheel water is raised by every influx of the tide." This may be a discovery to our contemporary, but it is nothing new to the people of this country, and we were well aware of it when we penned our remarks on the subject. A Bengali knows well that the outflow of a julla, not "Jheel" as our contemporary would persistently call it, which opens out into a tidal stream is stopped during the flood-tide, but this does not interfere with the drainage of the villages of which the jullah is the drainage channel, simply because the level of the former is as a rule several feet higher than that of the latter; the suspension therefore of the overflow from the jullah does not prevent it from receiving the drainage of the villages in question. If it were not so, there would be a total suspension of the drainage outflow from Calcutta towards the Salt Water Lakes during the flood-tide, as the Lakes communicate with a tidal stream just as much as the jullah near Bally. We might mention for the information of our contemporary that it was the diversion of the drainage of Calcutta from its natural outfall the Salt Water Lakes to the river and Tolly's Nulla in the early part of the present century, which, as in the case of Bally since 1873, seriously interfered with the drainage of Calcutta, so much so that the pit of the Chowringhee Theatre used to be occasionally under water (*Vide* Col. Forbes' reports on the drainage of Calcutta) and malarious fever of a most virulent character used to rage epidemically in the town. Our contemporary will find vivid proofs of this fact in the Calcutta Fever Committee's Report and the Minute of the Marquis of Wellesley on the drainage of Calcutta. It is therefore quite erroneous to suppose, as our contemporary seems to suppose, that the outflow of the drainage of a town to a tidal outfall situated at a long distance from it and reached by a circuitous course would be affected in the same way as when the outfall lay in close proximity to the town. But our contemporary seems to be at his wit's end to discover the cause of increased dampness in Bally since 1873, and he thus remarks:

"Whatever may be the cause of the increased dampness which is said to be observable in almost every house in Bally, it cannot be due to the diminished level of the water in the town effected by the drains. And assuredly that dampness would not be lessened by raising the level of the water two or three feet, which would have to be done before it could flow towards the jheel. May not the alleged increase of dampness in the houses, which is said to be of recent growth, be partially accounted for by the increase in the number of houses huddled together without order or arrangement, stopping the air currents and shading one another from the drying action of sun and wind? As regards dryness, this must exercise a sensible and prejudicial effect upon dwelling houses, and when combined with the foul deposits frequently to be found at the very doorways, must go a long way towards engendering fevers and other maladies which make their homes in such congenial localities."

Bravo! Since 1873 the sun has ceased to shine and the wind to blow upon Bally with the same kindness as before, aye God's wrath dwells upon the houses of the wicked people of Bally, and therefore there is fever and death among them! Their habitations were not before so huddled together as now, the foul deposits such as they are were not to be found before as now. The sanitary sins of the people of Bally have been full to overflowing only since 1873—that cursed year which brought into existence all the ills which flesh in Bally has become heir to! We cannot help saying that however our contemporary and his "instructors" may shift their ground, they cannot kill the Truth, which is immortal and eternal.

A BATCH of Assistant Surgeons have been sent from Calcutta to Madras and Mysore. Although they were not bound by the terms of their covenant to proceed beyond the limits of the Bengal Presidency, they have readily waived objection and in consideration of the sufferings of their fellow-countrymen have cheerfully responded to the invitation of Government. But we are surprised to learn that the Surgeon General instead of shewing any appreciation of the spirit evinced by these Assistant Surgeons recommended to Government that in future the covenant should include service in any part of British India. This would mean that they would not be entitled to any extra allowance for service beyond the Bengal Presidency. We are glad to learn that His Honor has not given his assent to this recommendation.

A REPORT has been received of the continuance of the disturbances in Kurram, caused by the mission of Arsla Khan, the Ghilzai Sardar sent thither by the Amir to collect the poll tax from the Turi and Taji tribes. The reported murder of the Sardar is not confirmed; but the latest news of him received at Kabul stated that he had taken measures to protect himself, and had represented to the Amir the impossibility of levying the tax. Many people of the Turi tribe are said to be emigrating into British territory at Kohat and Bannu.

THE AMIR had a garden specially planted for the pleasure of the Turkish Envoy; and ordered to be pitched for him therein the tent which Moharaja Sher Singh presented to the father of the present Amir at Lahor. The Mir Akhor has returned to Kabul from his mission to the Akhund of Swat. He reports that the Akhund is now very weak and refuses all food, subsisting only on tea.

NEWS FROM Samarkand states that great excitement has been caused throughout the Russian dominions in Central Asia, by the imposition of a war tax of from 6 to 30 tangas (or Rs. 2 to Rs. 10) on all houses and shops belonging to cultivators of land, artizans, and traders. The people are said to be irritated both on account of the tax being an addition to their former taxation, and also because they believe that its proceeds will be used against their co-religionists in Turkey. The Russian officers however have represented to the people that the Amir of Kabul is attached to the Russian Government, and publicly state that the Amir is in correspondence both with General Kaufmann and General Ibramoff.

NEWS HAS been received of a battle between the troops of Beg Kuli Beg, son of the late Yakub Khan of Kashgar, with his friend the Dadkhawah, and those of Hakim Khan Tora. The latter gained the day; the Dadkhawah's eldest son was killed, and the Dadkhawah himself taken prisoner.

WHILE we regret the attitude which some of the district officers seem to have assumed towards the Vernacular Press, we think it is necessary to bear in mind that the remarks on the press and public feeling contained in the annual district reports have not originated from Mr. Eden's late Durbar address. It was Sir George Campbell, who had directed that this subject should always have a place in the annual district report, and accordingly the notice of the Press and public feeling in the annual report has become an established practice.

MR. PEACOCK, Commissioner of the Dacca Division, makes the following remarks on the Native Press of his division:

"It seems to be an impossibility for any native paper to exist for any length of time without becoming either scurrilous or offensive. They are great on politics, news in regard to which they gather from a variety of sources. They discuss local topics with great vigour, if not with such power, and they criticise the conduct of public officers often with greater freedom than judgment. So long as their attacks are confined to Europeans they do not much signify; but they are very apt to intimidate native officials (some of whom appear to have a morbid dread of appearing in print), and in this way are likely to do harm. Their influence on the mass of the people, not one in a thousand of whom knows of their existence, is absolutely *nil*."

If by the above remarks Mr. Peacock means that personalities generally pay the press, he is not far wrong, but in this respect the Native Press is not singular. It is the same with the Anglo-Indian Press and the English Press, though of course the superior ability and culture of the English Press enable it to follow more successfully Talleyrand's maxim—language is given to man to conceal his thoughts. As for attacks on Native Officers, the Native Press deserves credit and not censure for its even-handed justice. If on the other hand the influence of the vernacular press on the mass of the people is *nil*, then why should public officers trouble their heads about it? Really it amounts to much ado about nothing.

THE Lieutenant-Governor thus notices Mr. Peacock's remarks on the relations between landlord and tenant:

"The relations between landlords and tenants have, during the past year, decidedly improved, though they are still far from satisfactory. The enhancement question has not, it is feared, been settled, but merely postponed. In Mymensingh the ryots have generally paid their rents, being wonderfully prosperous; and there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of leases and counterparts registered, which, Mr. Peacock thinks, is indicative of the determination of both parties to settle their differences in court. In Tipperah both parties are quiet, suffering from the expenses of prolonged fighting. Elsewhere there has been no material change. The Government is now considering a plan for enabling zemindars to realize rents more speedily, which will, it may be hoped, become law this year, and may do something to prevent any future outbreak of lawlessness."

But how will the enhancement question be settled? It ought to be settled once for all, if practicable.

AS REGARDS the conduct of the zemindars Mr. Peacock reports:

"As regards the conduct of the zemindars during the year, there has been nothing special to remark in Dacca. The Furreedpore zemindars are chiefly non-resident, and are characterised mainly by endeavouring to get as much as possible out of their tenants at the least possible trouble to themselves. In Mymensingh, Srimati Bisheshwar Debya, Huro Doorga Chowdhrani, and Baboo Kashi Kishore Roy have distinguished themselves by liberality to a medical charity.

In Backergunge, with the honorable exceptions of Nawab Ashanoolah, Baboo Mohini Mohun Das, Rajendro Chunder Roy, and Doorga Mohun Das, not a single zemindar took the smallest interest in his tenantry or did anythig material to assist them after the cyclone. Few of the talookdars or haoladars have done anything to help the distressed peasantry. In Tipperah honorable mention is made of Roy Annoda prosad Roy Bahadoor, of Cossimbazar, of Nawab Ashanoolah, Baboo Ishan Chunder Roy, and Baboo Ram Dullal Roy. The general management of the Tipperah Rajah's estates is said to be wanting alike in method and firmness.

We are inclined to think that the above is not a correct list. For instance we remember that the Government not long ago published in the *Gazette* a letter of thanks to Babu Kallykissen Tagore, the leading Zemindar of Backergunge for his generous and munificent aid to his tenantry, who suffered from the late cyclone in that district. His name is omitted in the above list.

THE FOLLOWING is our rice report corrected up to last evening:

Stocks of Rice in and around Calcutta.

	Maunds.
Baliaghata	300,000
Chetla, Tallygunge, and Watgunge	150,000
Wooltadanga	50,000
Calcutta	500,000
In boats afloat	200,000
	1.200,000

	Total Quotations.	Rs. As.		Rs. As.
Kazla	from	3-0	to	3-6
Kheari	,,	3-0	,,	3-6
Moonghy	,,	3-14	,,	4-3
Soloi	,,	3-15	,,	4-0
Ballam	,,	4-2	,,	4-5
Rarree	,,	3-4	,,	3-11
Ghatal Midnapore and other low sorts	,,	3-0	,,	3-6
Daily arrivals	,,	40,000 to	50,000	Mds.
,, Deliveries	,,	40,000 ,,	50,000	do.

Owing to favorable news received here during the last three days from coast ports prices of all sorts of rice have gone down from four to six annas per maund, but even at current low quotations buyers do not care to enter into fresh contracts.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR makes the following remarks on the administration of the Sonthal Pergunnahs :

There has been no fresh development of the semi-religious movement reported in former years. Originally started by a well-known Sonthali intriguer named Bhagirut, who was imprisoned in 1868 for spreading rumours of rebellion, it took the form of a promiscuous slaughter of all pigs and fowls (in itself a symptom of the general spread of Hindu notions), coupled with a threatened withholding of rents, wild talk of a Sonthali raj, and a sort of deification of Bhagirut himself. The efforts of the local officers and the posting of military at Nya Doomka put a speedy stop to any dangerous manifestation of excitement, and the rent question has apparently been settled for the present, But the followers of Bhagirut still, it is said, keep themselves aloof as purer than their fellows, and pay great veneration to the influence of their leader, notwithstanding his being now in jail in default of security for his good behaviour. The Sonthals are so ignorant, and so easily led away by the wild talk of designing men, that it is peculiarly necessary to watch closely all movements of this kind. The Commissioner is sanguine that the present movement will cool and die out in time. Meantime it would be well, as already remarked, if the officers could be more about among the people than they have been for the last year or two.

The Lieutenant Governor proposes that officers, especially of the uncovenanted service, when once posted there should be as far as possible kept there.

WE TAKE the following extract from the Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor on the report of the Bhaugulpore Commissioner :

In his report for 1875-76 the Commissioner drew attention to the gradual break up of many of the zemindari families owing to accumulated debts and mismanagement, and also to the mischievous effects of the farming system as worked in many parts of this division. In the present report a lamentable account is given by the sub-divisional officer of the state of things in the Banka sub-division, two-thirds of which are leased out in farm to non-resident speculators, while in the remaining one-third at least half of the landlords are also non-resident. The farms run usually for seven years, and are only renewed on the payment of a heavy and increasing premium which falls entirely on the ryots. The tenants are said to have no rights, to be subject to the exaction of forced labour, to illegal distraint, and to numerous illegal cesses while the collections are made by an unscrupulous host of up-country peadahs. Raja Lilanund Sing's zemindari is said to be one of the worst. The Commissioner hopes the picture may be overdrawn, but the further facts stated as within Mr. Barlow's own knowledge go to shew that there is only too much truth in it. The establishment of a moonsiffee at Banka may do something to improve matters by bringing a civil court to the door of the ryots; but the tract requires close and careful watching by an efficient sub-divisional officer by whom all attempts at illegality should be summarily repressed and punished. From a latter paragraph of the report, it appears that the relations between Rajah Lilanund Sing and his son threaten again to plunge his estate in pecuniary difficulties, while they must of course aggravate the troubles of the tenantry. Lieutenant Governor would be glad to hear the results of the steps taken to move the civil courts to place this estate under the Collector. Meantime the Commissioner should, if further inquiries bear out the facts alleged with reference to this and other estates in Banka, address on the part of Government a very strong remonstrance to Rajah Lilanund Sing and to the other landlords concerned, warning them that, if the illegalities and oppressions reported to exist continue, Government will have to adopt special means to protect the tenantry and secure their rights.

The best thing the Government can do to remedy the evil is to place these estates under the Court of Wards. We believe the zemindars are willing to submit to such an arrangement, and in order to facilitate it Sir Richard Temple had put in a clause in the new Wards' Estate bill to meet cases of this kind, but the bill hangs fire. What has Mr. Stokes done with it?

IT APPEARS from the Resolution of the Bengal Government on the Report of the Registration Department that while in some districts perpetual leases have been decreasing, in others they are increasing. Mr. Smith, Registrar of Jessore, writes :—"Perpetual leases are increasing from year to year. The cause of them is the ryot's unwillingness to take a lease for a short time, especially in respect of such lands as require much labor and outlay to reclaim, such as the large beels in the centre, and the Sunderbun jungles in the south, of the district. In most of the leases of this class it is found that the landlord reserves his power to measure and to enhance the rent; the ryots prefer such a stipulation to a lease for a short term. Where a premium is given it is a sufficient inducement to a needy landlord to give a perpetual lease." A perpetual lease of this kind means a perpetual occupancy right. The tenant right thus secured would certainly induce confidence in the ryot, while the recognition of the right of the zemindar to measure the land and enhance the rent would not deprive him of his just dues.

MR. EDEN is justly of opinion that the system of rural registration should not be extended. He says: "It may even be apprehended that the very-small salaries produced by even 75 per cent. of the fees may have resulted in laxity and mismanagement in some of the offices presided over by underpaid sub-registrars. Mr. Bourdillon reports that ten of them realize an average income of Rs. 48 per mensem, and that in some instances their aggregate receipts are as low as Rs. 43 and Rs. 45, out of which they have to pay their establishment. Mr. Eden's opinion, formed after careful consideration of the whole subject, is that the rural system should not for the present be further extended in Bengal, though it should not be extensively contracted. In one or two instances it may be found necessary to amalgamate offices which are not fairly self-supporting with others which have been longer established; but as a rule Mr. Eden would leave existing arrangements undisturbed. But something ought to be done to better the condition of under-paid rural registrars." A public servant not properly renumerated is apt to degenerate into a public nuisance.

WE HAVE received the following letter from our Krishnagur correspondent :

In my last letter I adverted to the official order prosecuting Troilucko Nath Biswas, and Ram Gutti Kahar (and not Ram Chunder Kahar, as put by me, by mistake) for giving false evidence, on the subject of the death of Ram Gutti Biswas, near Lokenathpore Factory, at Chooadanga. The case was taken up, on Monday, the 24th instant by Mr. Taylor, especially deputed from Meherpore to Chooadanga for the purpose. It lasted for 3 consecutive days, and has been adjourned *sine die*, for the absence of two witnesses *viz.*, one Hurry Mohun Biswas and Mr. Skrine himself.

Before I state the facts of the case, as far as it has proceeded, I cannot help remarking that the selection of Mr. Taylor of Meherpore, in preference to the native Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Sub-division of Chooadanga is looked upon by the local public, though not intended by Government, as an indirect reflection upon him. And what is most noteworthy is, that the defendants laboured under great disadvantages, in defending themselves from the charges made under sections 182,211 and 106 of I. P. C., in consequence of the suppression of the reports on this case, submitted to Government by Mr. Skrine the then Joint-Magistrate of Chooadanga, and Mr. Stevens the District Magistrate. Poor men as these defendants were, they would have gone undefended, but for the kindness of Baboos Sree Gopal Chatterjee M. A. B. L. and Ockhoy Coomar Roy L. L., who offered these unfortunate men professional assistance almost for nothing, In these days of selfishness and money-making, their patriotic and disinterested example is really commendable.

The outside public is at a loss to understand why such good and popular Magistrates as Messrs. Stevens and Skrine have kept back from the public what they consider to be the truth in the case, which has sent a thrill throughout the whole district. If they really believe, that the deceased committed suicide in order to escape, as has been alleged, the pressure of debt he owed to various mahajans, why not publish the report and dispel the erroneous impression of the people? The non-publication of the report naturally gives rise to suspicion and remark.

The perjury case was opened with the perusal of the official order that, whereas Troilucko Nath Biswas, a relative of the deceased, Ram Gutti Biswas *deposed*, (whether on oath or not is doubtful) before Mr. Skrine that, he *accompanied* the deceased to the Fractory, on Saturday afternoon, the 25th of Joista last, the date on which Ram Gutti Biswas is supposed to have been put to death or died as the case may be; and whereas Ram Gutty Kahar a tagitdar of Mr. Glascott bore testimony to the effect before the same official, that while he was in the Factory in the afternoon of the above-mentioned date he saw Ram Gutti Biswas and his relative Troilucko Nath Biswas in the same Factory of Mr. Glascott.

Twenty-one witnesses consisting chiefly of factory men were examined for the prosecution; and the nature of the evidence is as follows: As against Troilocko Nath it is songht to be proved that Troylocko and the deceased Ram Gutti did not go to the factory on Saturday the 28th Joista *together in the afternoon* (as has been deposed to by Troilokho before Mr. Skrine) and also to prove that the deceased came by the road, through *Dosto* and not by the road Troylocko says he came by with the deceased and that the deceased never *came* to the Factory on the above mentioned date.

As against the accused Ram Gutti Kahar it is attempted to be proved that the deceased never came to the Factory on the above-mentioned date; though the witnesses cannot but admit that the accused himself came to the Factory at the time the accused says he came and saw the deceased in the Factory.

Besides the evidence above mentioned, there has been an attempt to prove that there was a great pressure put upon the deceased, about the time, for money owed by the deceased, and that therefore the deceased had a motive for committing suicide.

The case, as I have stated above, has been adjourned for the absence of Mr. Skrine and another witness. It is rumoured that Mr. Skrine will be examined by *commission*. But it would have been satisfatory to all parties if he had been here and could have been examined in the presence of the pleaders on both sides. His translation to the Madras Presidency, at this time is greatly to be regretted.

Mr. Taylor conducted himself very fairly and impartially on the bench. At first an attempt was made to allow Mr. Glascott to depose, sitting in his chair; but on objection being taken by the defendants' counsel, he was ultimately put into the witness box and examined.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette,—*September* 26, 1877.

GENERAL.— Mr. C. H. Swinden Offi-ciating Sub-Deputy Collector, Rajmehal, to act as a Deputy Magistrate and a Collector and is posted to Pakour, Santhal Purgunnah.

Baboo Kali Sunker Sen Special Sub-Deputy Collector Chittagong obtained leave for forty-two days.

Mr. C F. Manson, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Modhoobonnee obtained leave for three months.

F. St. C. Grimwood Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Shahabad to have charge of the Mudhoobonnee division, Durbhanga.

Baboo Gobind Mohun Ghose Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Sarun, obtained leave for two months and seven days.

Mr. F. H. Barrow Sub-Divisional Officer of Soopool, Bhugulpore obtained leave for two months and ten days.

Mr. Charles James O'Donnell Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Second Grade to act until further orders in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. G. A. Grierson Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector is posted to Begoo Serai, Monghyr.

Moulvi Abdool Hye Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Begoo Serai is transferred to Soopool in Bhugulpore.

Baboo Annodapersad Sen Sub-Deputy Collector, Jhenidah Jessore, obtained leave for three months.

Baboo Prankrishna Dass to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the second grade at Jhenidah.

The leave of Baboo Rakhaldas Haldar 1st Special Commissioner under Chota Nagpore Tenure's Act will have effect from the 9th September.

The Collector of Rajshye to be Superintendent of Ganja Revenue in the border villages of Bogra and Dinagepore.

The transferring of Moulvi Abdool Hye of the 18 instant are cancelled.

Mr. G. A. Grierson Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bhugulpore Division is posted to Soopool in Bhugulpore. This cancels the orders of the 18 instant posting Mr. Grierson to Begooserai.

Mr. F. W. Badcock Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Backergunge obtained furlough for two years with an additional leave not exceeding 30 days.

Mr. Geo. Baptiste Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in Durbangah.

POLICE.—Mr. G. B. Havelock Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police Dinagepore is transferred temporarily to Darjeeling.

REGISTRATION.—Baboo Prankisto Chatterjee to act as Special Sub-Registrar of Rungpore until further orders.

EDUCATION.—Baboo Sreekishna Chatterjee Head Master Gya zilla school to be Head Master, Bhugulpore zilla school.

MEDICAL.—Surgeon R. Cobb, Officiating Civil Surgeon Burdwan to act as Civil Surgeon Backergunge.

The services of the Assistant Surgeon Abdoor Razzack are placed at the disposal of the Governor of the Mayo native Hospital.

Assistant Surgeon Jadubkrishna Sircar to do duty temporarily in the Campbell Medical Hospital at Sealdah as a Supernumerary Assistant Surgeon.

The services of the following Assistant Surgeons are at the disposal of the Government of India Home Department.

Assistant Sugeon Nundo Coomar Mitter.

Advertisements.

Notice is hereby given that Letters of administration of the property and credits of Baboo Russicklall Seal late of Colootolah in the Town of Calcutta Zemindar deceased has been this day granted to Sreemutty Biddyadhurree Dassee the sole widow of the deceased above named by the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in its Testamentary and Intestate jurisdiction. All parties having claims against the said Estate are requested to make the same Known to Baboo Punnalall Seal of Colootolah aforesaid Zemindar the duly constituted attorney of the said administratrix to whom those indebted thereto are hereby requested to make payment of their respective debts without delay.

Calcutta,
20th September, 1877. } A. ST. JOHN CARRUTHERS,
Attorney, High Court.

পোর্ট ক্যানিং এবং ল্যাণ্ড ইম্প্রুভমেণ্ট কোম্পানি লিমিটেড্।

বিজ্ঞাপন—নিম্ন লিখিত কর্ম্ম সমুদয় সমাধা করিবার জন্য উক্ত কোম্পানির অংশীদারদিগের পঞ্চম সাধারণ অধিবেশন উক্ত কোম্পানির রেজিষ্টর্ড কর্ম্মালয় ৮নং ফার্বস ষ্ট্রীটে বোম্বাই নগরে আগত অক্টবর মাহার ৯ তারিখে মঙ্গলবারে হইবেক।

১ম—১৮৭৭ সালের ৩০ এপ্রেল পর্য্যন্ত ডাইরেক্টরদিগের বিজ্ঞাপনিত হিসাবের পরীক্ষিত রেওয়া করা কাগজ গ্রহণ করা।

২য়—অংশীদারদিগের মুনাফার কি অংশ দেওয়া তাহা নির্দ্ধারণ করা।

৩য়—যে দুই জন অধ্যক্ষ সময় অতিক্রম হওন জন্য ডাইরেক্টরদিগের সভা হইতে কর্ম্ম ত্যাগ করিয়া যাইতেছেন এবং যাঁহারা পুনর্ব্বার মনোনিত হইতে পারেন তাঁহাদিগের স্থানে আর দুই জন ডাইরেক্টর মনোনীত করা।

৪র্থ—আগত সনের ১৮৭৮ সালের ৩০ এপ্রেল পর্য্যন্ত হিসাব পরীক্ষা করিবার জন্য পরীক্ষক নিযুক্ত করা ও তাহাদিগের কি বেতন দেওয়া কর্ত্তব্য তাহা নির্দ্দেশ করা।

উক্ত কোম্পানির ট্রান্সফর বহি আগামী ২ অক্টবর অবধি ৯ তারিখ পর্য্যন্ত বন্ধ থাকিবেক অর্থাৎ ঐ কালের মধ্যে উহা কেহ দেখিতে পাইবেন না কিম্বা উহাতে কোন নাম লেখা হইবেক না।

বোম্বাই, ১২ই সেপ্টেম্বর ১৮৭৭ সাল. } ডাইরেক্টরদিগের অনুমত্যানুসারে

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Bogra, the 21st September. 1877. } F. WYER, *Chairman of the District Road Cess Committee.*

NOTICE.

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